

512
638
To Lord Palmerston

7 Apr 1836 ✓

Dear Lord Palmerston.

I had intended my Son for the Church — but he thinks the Church is falling and will not go into it — I had for the purpose of giving him a good Living kept myself at the head of the Preferment List at St Pauls — and the good things I had in Store for him — must now go to some one else. —

I am very desirous of getting him into some of the Public Offices -- I care not how small the Emolument — I only want the Occupation — If you have any opportunity of assisting me in this object — I shall take it as a great favor -- always my dr Lord
yours very sincerely

Sydney Smith —

33. Charles St

Berkley Square —

April 7. 1836 —

Viscount Palmerston. —

Text from xerox copy of original in Osborn collection, Yale University Library.

[Endorsed:] April 7. 1836 / Revd. S. Smith / In favor of his son / Registered. / Candidate for Clerkship / Son since appd. to Home Office and subsequently discharged from that Dept. for misconduct.

Seen by ASB at Yale, X-76

Wm J MORBEY & Co / 1836

Osborn acc. no. 83/7

OS

113
639
To J. Longman

W
[c. 18 Apr 1836]

Dear Longman, — I can't accept your invitation, for my house is full of country cousins. I wish they were once removed.

Yours, 'SYDNEY SMITH.'

yy.5/2.
Text from R.H.D. Barham, The Life and Letters of the Rev. Richard Harris Barham, 2 vol. Lond. 1870, i.283. Barham first believed it was on this occasion (a dinner at Paternoster Row with Owen Rees, 18 Apr 1836, to which Sydney could not go) that one of the Messrs. Longman present mentioned the 'following quaint answer to an invitation to dinner'.

This joke was used much earlier
(c. 1830) & seems to have been
one of Sydney's favourites.

+ cf 670, 915

690
To Lord John Russell

2 May 1836

My dear John. --

As you stated in your obliging promise of the first ^Cvacancy in the Home Office that it might be some time before such an Event took place -- Lord Melbourne to stay my Stomach in the Interim has given me a place in the Audit Office -- I mention this least [sic] you should suppose I had virtually given up & abandond my request to you. -- My wishes on that point ^{remain} ~~remain~~ just what they were I very much preferr the Home Office -- & go into the Audit to avoid an interlude of idleness. do not give yourself the trouble to answer^L this ~~letter~~ Letter -- It requires none -- & beg of Lady John to lecture Miss Lister for ~~treating~~ treating me with such cruelty --

ever yours

Sydney Smith --

May 2d. 1836 --

33 Charles St Berkley Square --

[Endorsed:] 1836 May 2 / Rev: Sydney Smith

645
To Mrs Davenport

7 Jun 1836

Dear Mrs Davenport

I send two tickets - and with them two of my Cards.
deliver if you please the Tickets at the door - and
reserve my Cards for the Vigers - whom you must desire
to shew you to my Seats - I am sorry I cannot be there
myself to receive you. -

Davenport lectur'd me last night for not attending
your party. - My Excuse arranges itself under
the following heads - 1st All Evening parties are
Contracts of imperfect obligation - and are so
considered by the practice of the World - "I am at
home the Mistress of the house says if it suits you to
come. - 2^d Argument - I am an old Gentleman
and often (though not ill) indispos'd, and heartily

645.1

(7 Jun 1836)

tird before the hour of Evening parties — & must
be allowed full Liberty on that point by all who
honor me with their notice — 3^d Argument. in
the only instance when you have been so kind as to
ask me I was fully engaged long before I received
your invitation —

I think the united force of these arguments
(which I consider as Hallam proof) will procure
me a Verdict of Acquittal, and exculpate me from
a suspicion of disrespect to you of little importance
, but decisive against my Character for good
feeling, and just discernment If I could be guilty
of it —

(cont)

645.2

(7 Jun 1836)

yours dear Madam very truly
Sydney Smith.

33. Charles Street Berkeley Square June 7. 1836.

Tuesday.

Text from xerox of Ms. Yale (Osborn).

Seen by ASB at Yale, X.76

Wmk J. MORBEY & Co / 1836

Osbn. acc. recd 75.5.22

647

To Lord Hatherton

1 Jul 1836

Dear Lord Hatherton --

Many thanks. it shall have the Week of
forbearance -- & shall then descend into that antient & venerable
depository for Wine -- the Stomach of the priest --

ever yours

S Smith --

33. Charles St Berkley Square

July 1 -- 1836 --

Text from xerox copy of original in Hatherton papers, Staffordshire R.O.

Endorsed: 'Mr Sidney Smiths answer to a Present of 2 Dozen of light Burgundy.'

503
649
T
To Lady Grey

9 Jul 1836

My dear Lady Grey —

to go out of the World without going into St Pauls is a proceeding altogether unworthy of your Spirit & Sense — to prevent this I propose that you should call upon me at the Chapter House St Pauls Saty. between 1/4 and 1/2 after 4 — and we will see the Cathedral — the Chapter House is on the North Side close to the Gates of the Cathedral a large stately building with Stone **S**t~~ep~~s. — consider whether this will tire you or not & do as you are inclin'd — I maintain that Lady Williamson sings better than Miss Hamilton is less dull & husky — more sweet and more flexible

ever yours

Sydney Smith —

July 6 — 1836 —

33 Charles St

Berkley Square —

I send Georgiana a book of Psalms & Hymns of which I beg her acceptance & I do not at all see why Lord Grey should not occasionally sing some. —

[Addressed:] Countess Grey. —

Text from Hickleton (Garrowby) MSS., A.1.4.22.5.

My transcript of

654

To Lord John Russell

23 Jul 1836

33 Charles St Berkley Square July 23

1836 --

My dear John.--

I am off on Monday to where it would give Mrs Sydney and myself great pleasure to see Lady John & yourself.-- You were good enough to say that you would give my Son Windham the first Vacancy in the Home Office -- if any such occurs -- perhaps you ^{will} ~~would~~ be good enough to write me a Line to Combe Florey -- where I expect to find some Bishop who has ^{ta} ~~ta~~ken possession ever yrs very sincerely

Sydney Smith

Lord John Russel

turn over --

your Bills affect private Life, the Bishop ^{of} Landaff call'd on me to day & was walking off with my Umbrella -- I stopp'd him -- and insisted upon his producing an order sign'd by you. --

/Endorsed:/

1836 July 23 / Rev: Sydney Smith

Public Record Office, PRO 30/22/2B, ff. 262-3.

655
✓
To Paulet Mildmay

T
20 Aug 1836

Combe-Florey, Taunton, August 20th, 1836.

My dear Sir, —

When does Lady Mildmay come to you? and when she does come, will you and Mrs. Mildmay come with your sister and mother? and about what time? In this world it is necessary to look a little forward.

I hope you are well. We are quite well, saving that we have the rheumatism in all our joints, palpitation in our heart, and concealed and declared gout. Figure to yourself that Parliament is not yet up, and rejoice that you are not a senator.

Soon after you left London I began fighting with bishops, and have been fighting ever since — and not in vain, for the bill which was to destroy Deans and Chapter ^(sic) is stopped for a year.

Kind regards from all to Mrs. Mildmay.

Ever, my dear Sir,

Very sincerely yours,

Sydney Smith.

P. Mildmay, Esq.

Text from Reid ⁴, LIV, pp. 300-301.

This and 10 others, 20 Aug 1836 - 24 Sept 1842 sold at Sotheby's to Charles Essler, Inc. on 10 Feb 1964. [Ex libris S.J. Reid!]
I wrote to Essler, but received no reply. Correspondence re Yale with Madeline House & K.J. Fielding.

656
To Paulet Mildmay

T
27 Aug 1836

Combe-Florey, Taunton, / August 27th, 1836.

My dear Sir, —

We hope to have the pleasure of seeing you and Mrs. Mildmay, and the interesting pair on the 13th September; which day I name because some day is to be fixed, and because it seems to fall in with your engagements; and pray make a good honest stay with us.

We are now here in a tolerable state of preservation.

Lord Radnor is an excellent man, but he does not belong to this planet.

The Lansdownes have now their first taste of sorrow. I am heartily sorry the cup has ever been brought to their lips. They have made an honourable and social use of their rank and wealth, and have always shown a disposition to make other people happy.

BAss.
I thought you had been paying a visit to the wise men of Bristol. Their occupations appear to be of the greatest importance. On Monday they dissected a frog; on Tuesday they galvanized a goose; on Wednesday they dissected a little pig, and showed that wonderful arrangement of the muscles of the throat by which that animal is enabled to ^qsneak or grunt at pleasure. On Thursday they tried to go up in a balloon; but the balloon would not stir. The causes of the failure were, however, pointed out in a most satisfactory manner. On Friday a new

cont.....

656.1

T

(27 Aug 1836)

and philosophical mode of making butter was brought forward, and several pats of butter exhibited. On Saturday they all set off on the outside of coaches, believing they had conferred the utmost benefits on the human race. You and I and Mrs. Mildmay know better.

To this lady, if you please, present our kind regards.

Ever yours, very truly,

Sydney Smith.

P. Mildmay, Esq.

Text from Reid⁴, LV, pp. 301-2.

102
658

To Sir Robert Wilmot-Horton

7

12 Sep 1836

My dear Wilmot Horton. —

The same balance of parties remains — with a slight preponderance to the popular Side —

Peel plays his game with consummate Skill & prudence. — & I am inclin'd to say the same of ~~the~~ Lyndhurst and the house of Lords — The Effect of their different measures upon the Opinions of the Country cannot be well measurd because the prosperity is so great. that every body is satisfied — and would be satisfied with almost any Measures — and any Government. — In the meantime the Whiggs are carrying many measures any one of which in the old System of things would have immortalizd any administration. — Think of Tithes, Poor & the Slave Trade — did you ever hope to see such things accomplishd. —

Broughams illness is now generally supposd to be political but he may play what Tricks he pleases — there is no end of him — Nobody but the Democrats would work with him & they are still weak ——— John Russel Sr George Grey and Howick are the persons who have most risen in the World. — The Poor Biðl is well workd by Lewis —

I am in prosperity having 2 good Livings one the most beautiful in England. — and a Canonry of St Pauls succulent & productive —

I shall be very glad to see you & lady ^{Wilmot} ~~Wilmot~~ again in 1838. — I keep my health — and will try to keep it. — Tufnell is well placd he seems to be an honest worthy good naturd man — Hay is out of office and discontented. —

Have you read McIntoshs Life by his Son it is excellent and one of

cont.....

658.1

T

(12 Sep 1836)

the most agreeable Books in the English Language --

Read all Mrs Trollope writes Peter Simple & Henryson's ^{Zumalecaneguar?} [illeg.]

-- and dont forget the common admiration of Wordsworth who is put by
the rising generation above Milton -- Lastly remember me & let us meet
as old friends when you return

God bless you

S S. --

Love to Lady Wilmot. --

September 12 -- 1836 --

Combe Florey. Taunton. --

[Addressed:] His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon~~y~~ / Ceylon / To be left at
E. India House.

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

= NCS 723 (L 382), with addenda.

659

W

To Mrs Austin

15 Sep 1836

My dear Mrs Austin -

I am afraid of delaying a day for fear you should be gone -
 I cannot imitate the lofty flights of Jeffrey - but I am without
 metaphors very ^sorry to lose the pleasure of your Society you
 are quite right to go where Income carries you but you are out
 of place and your friends suffer from it - pray tell me
 where your ^udaughter is - and if it is not contrary to your plans -
 let her accept invitations from Mrs Sydney - [space] We have
 a pleasant party staying here - do you take Shippy [sic] at
 Falmouth - if you ^do cannot you come here ? I will write to
 you if I remain alive. If I am remov'd (as is the common fate
 of Canons) by an indigestion, retain some good natur'd recollect-
 ions of an Ecclesiastic who knows your value - likes your
 Society and who would have been very much in Love with you -
 if Common sense - and all Laws human and divine had not guarded
 him from an accident so formidable -

God bless you

Sydney Smith - Chevalier de Malth-
us.

September - 15, 1836. -

Combe Florey. Taunton. -

[Addressed:] Mrs Austin / Bury Street / St James / London. - /6.-

[Postmarked:] TAUNTON / 15 SE 1836 / P. ^{os J}PT

D 17 SE 17 1836

[Watermarked:] J. WHATMAN / TURKEY MILL / 1831

Text from original in possession of ~~Gordon Waterfield~~, Esq.
 - L.381, NCS.721, to which it makes substantial additions.

To be checked from Xerox
 supplied by new owner Mr
 Dr. Bentham, 1977.

[To Paulet Mildmay] 661

3 Oct 1836

R⁴(-)

My dear Son

I am very sorry to disappoint you - but Mr Smith has positively
bo'd us into staying another day. - and we shall be with
you not before Tuesday - We have seen a great number
of fine things but I wish I was home again - Dogmersfield
for my money. - ^② Letitia has been very romantic -
repeating poetry by the Sea Side - dragging her best Pellisse on the
ground - and walking out in the Rain

Mr Smith preached a Sermon against Letitia to day
about obeying me - which I hope will have a good Effect
The family here were very much pleas'd with your Visit - they
have a good receipt for Hams which I will bring with me -
Mrs Smith seems to be a notable Woman - Mr Smith
talks of paying us a Visit to Dogmersfield - but perhaps it will
blow over - if he comes we must send for Mr Dyson to argue
with him - he is an odd man - and is I think a little
Crazy - God bless you dear Son
Jane Mildmay

October 3^d 1836,

2) Wm J WHATMAN 1836 661.1

(3 Oct 1836)

Note Entirely in Sydney's hand

End This was a letter from the Rev. J. Smith ~~pretending to~~
as from my Grandmother Lady Mildmay to my
Father her son Paulet — AEM./

Mr Byson was the Dogmersfield Clergyman —

[End (late)] 2/

Beinecke Library
Gimbel Dickens Coll
EX Sotheby 10-11 Feb 1964,
lot 214 8/x/76

663

To Lord John Russell

22 Oct 1836

My dear John --

I will assist your case -- Suppose that your Office was for Life, -- & a freehold; that the Patronage was not the Kings, but your own --. that the offices were not paid from the public money -- but given & bequeath^ed to you at a period of remote ant^{iqu}uity. --- All this would bring your case a little nearer to mine -- but while you are thus Constituted -- a Commission all of a sudden issues. -- all the acts of parliament of which there are many & ^{wh}ich prevented your patronage from being divided without your consent^e are repeald -- and a power is given to the Commissioners of dividing the patronage of the Home Office alone, the Consent of all the other offices being declar'd an essential preliminary to the divisions of their patronage. Would you feel this as no degradation ? would it not be a gross actg of Injustice ? -- You forget that we dont only say you have no right to do this at all. but that if done to one patron it ought to be done to the other -- that you are truckling to the Strong, and legislating against the Weak. ---- You cannot singl^y out St Pauls for injustice -- but sell the other Livings, & give St Pauls & Lincoln ten Years -- but if the Commissioners feel^e that it is an extremely harsh proceeding to destroy all of a Sudden Mens prospects of patronage -- a ready way may be found of relaxing so much as will leave the antient Members of ~~d~~the Cathedrals in Stau quo. ----- To me such an arrangement would be highly agreeable -- as it would prevent me from opening a battery against~~#~~ my old friends which would be laughable to them, -- but extremely disag^{re}agreeable to me. --

You may depend upon it I will make no allusion to the ABs private opinion.-- but treat it as if no thought of relaxation had ever come across either him or you. --

Upon looking over your Letter again I cannot understand the ABs logic. --

~~reduce~~

Reduce

(22 Oct 1836)

reduce the patronage as the number of patrons is reduc'd this is your proposition and a perfectly fair one it is. -- but under this rule why is the case of St Pauls an impediment? as the Number of Patrons in St Pauls is not reduced, leave ^f their patronage as it is & they will be in the same state as all the Cathedrals. but you must take care that the 5th man does not take any patronage while the 4 antients are alive --

Now ammong ^a [sic] other things look to the tricks that a Bishop may play with the patronage of Cathedrals. -- a great Living is vacant. he breaks ^g it to pieces makes it not worth taking ^{kl} to the ^a Canons -- and the preferments fall to him. -- again a Living is vacant which it would be diserable [sic] to divide -- it passes thro' to the Bishop, it suits one of his Sons and is not divided -- there is no other Answer to this than the Impeccability of Bishops -- and this is the Refrain ^H of the whole Commission --

Upon the Impeccability of Bishops we have collected some most curious, and important Evidence, If in this philepiscopous age we are allow'd ^o to plead ^d at the Barr of the House of Lords but as I said before do ^o not imagine me so foolish as to believe that we have any chance of protecting ourselv ^les from the injustice . we can only kick, and scratch and call names -- I shall be in Town the 1st November if upon reflection you think any thing can be done to avoid the Scandal of a public ^r Quarrel between ^B Bishops and Chapters -- & you chuse to communicate with me -- ^B pray send for me whenever you please: otherwise I shall say no more to you upon the Subject -- fearful that I have already said too much

ever yours truly

Sydney Smith. --

663-2

(22 Oct 1836)

October 22 1836

Lord John Russel --

[Endorsed:] 1836 Oct 22 / Rev Sydney Smith

[Watermarked:] (Illegible)
in PRO light

Public Record Office PRO 30/22/2C, ff. 299-300.

To N. Hibbert 665

16 Nov 1836

Dear Hibbert,

Pray keep this paper for me - and do what it requires -

I am very well but am come or coming to an age

when these things may happen - No news - The

tempest in the City is a little subsiding - Love to

Emily and all at Munden

yours affectionately

Sydney Smith ff

November 16 1836.

[Addressed:] N. Hibbert Esq / Munden / Watford.

Ms. D. R. Bentham

(May 1978)

667

To Lord John Russell

[28 Nov 1836]

Dear Lord John --

If you think it worth While to make any reply to this I shall be here
till the 1st December -- at Lady Mildmays Dogmersfield Park Hertford
Bridge till the 5th -- at the Grange till the 8th and then home -- You
may make what use of the Letter you please --

ever yrs

S Smith --

[Addressed:] Private / To / Lord John Russel / Wilton Crescent /
Belgrave Square / Sydney Smith

[Postmarked:] (illeg.) NO 28 1836

[Watermarked:] J WHATMAN / 1836

Public Record Officer, PRO 30/22/2D, f. 79

PRO 30/22/2D, f. 79

668

To Lord John Russell

28 Nov 1836

Monday November 28 - 1836 -

My dear Lord John -

(?) The rule you have laid down is excellent - that the patronage shall be diminished in proportion to the diminish'd Numbers, by this very just arrangement. [#] The present Members enjoy their patronage for their Lives - and their Successors succeed to the same proportionate patronage. - having ^u conceded what ought to satisfy all reasonable men you proceed in the case of St Pauls to violate every principle of your own rule - for as our Number is to be augmented a 5th our patronage ought to be increas^d in the same proportion - instead of that it is diminish'd one third - and by this double injustice of augmenting the patrons and lessening the patronage - The Existing Members are so far materially injur'd - and the future Members plac'd on a very inferior fo^ooting to that of any other Cathedral - [Para.] The Language and plan of the Commission amounts to this "our former plan of Injustice to all the Cathedrals we give up and will confine our injustice (augmenting nevertheless its Severity) to St Paul alone." I confess the proposal fills me with astonishment - and I think a more flagrant piece of Injustice was never modulated against any public body - St Pauls has certainly put itself forward in this Controversy with the Bishops. that it has done so not without good cause is shewn by the Commissioners yieding [sic] to the objection. - why then is this mark'd and partial Spoliation exercis'd against them? - a power is given to the Commission of dividing not all public patronage - but the patronage of Deans & Chapters only. - space The Statement of the Bishop of London about the division of Edmonton is acted

(28 Nov 1836)

upon & the Counter Statement of those who opposd it never askd for. The Evidence of the Bishop of Landaff is cited it being well known he is opposed in his capacity of Dean - and not in his Capacity of Bishop The Existing patronage of Bishops is carefully securd for their Lives in cases even where it is to be taken away after their deaths -- can any thing be more unfair and unjust than all this ? --

Every assertion of Bishops is beleiv'd. Whereas when this tumult is past away you will see these Livings of St Pauls (the value of which -- and the frail incumbency of which are well known to the Bishop of London) given away to the Sons and the Sons-in-Law of the then Bishop of London & perhaps by this very man who has framd that Verdict as a Commissioner of which he may enjoy the prof-its as a Bishop).

The extreme injustice ⁱntended to St Pauls, fills me with Astonishment -- & that this should come fm men in whose calm & cautious and conscientious Justice the Country yrust that the changes in the Church -- should not be made a plea for future revolutions in the Church !!!!! but however I will have nothing to do with your proceedings otherwise than as you treat me with injustice. If you pay that respect to present possession which is common & equitable. I am silent -- it is not my province to find fault with the way in which your task is perform'd -- upon this principle on which I have all along proceeded. I make the following proposal --

Let the Bp of London -- give us the same Value in Country Livings if he is so anxious to be the patron of London preferment, or if his anxiety is only to enjoy gratis what does not belong to him -- and the Commission chuse to indulge him in this -- Let the Bishop wait for the death of some of us. as all

(or)

668.2

(28 Nov 1836)

the other Bishops according to your plan are to wait at least all Bishops who have not the good fortune to be Commissioners as well as Bishops -- Let him then come in & take the first dead mans turn of patronage -- and again the second vacancy to any extent that you mean to commit this injustice upon us -- This (bad as it will be) will do away with all the objection of patronage taken away from existing Members -- and will assimilate us in some degree to the very fair condition you have offerd to other Cathedrals -- do this and let all other public patronage be divided as well as ours and I have done --

yours truly

Sydney Smith --

[Watermarked:] J WHATMAN / 1836

(21)

Public Record Office, PRO 30/22/21^d, ff. 80-81

669
To Lord John Russell

29 Nov 1836

Dear Lord John --

One other idea strikes me -- and that is this: I understand from Lord Lansdowne -- which I did not exactly understand from you -- that the plea for this act of Injustice the main plea is that we shall put in bad Incumbents in the London Livings this ^{if} it be admitted can surely be no reason for not putting in ourselves -- If the King has thought fit to make us Canons of St Pauls -- we are surely fit to be Incumbents of Livings in London & this is not only the opinion of the King -- but of the Commissioners for you yourselves proposed last year in your Report -- that the Livings should be offered to us before they lapsed to the Bishop. What has been the alteration in our Conduct & Character since last year -- that we were considered as the most proper persons then and the least proper persons now ? I beg your pardon for the Liberty I am taking but I cannot help saying to myself "what would Lord John have said of all this & what motives would have been ascribed to the Bishop of London if he had been in opposition when all this Injustice was concocted ?" -- but however this may be -- the present point is to consider whether you will carry this oppression to the Extent of giving us the preference over every body else in 1836 -- & then taking away the preferment in 1837 because the Canons of St Pauls are not fit to hold their own Livings -- The Argument of the immense importance of choosing proper incumbents is a very bad argument for giving the patronage to the Bishop because we should ^{make} as good a choice as he would but it is no argument at all for excluding those who in common decency ought to be supposed to be competent and whom you yourselves have pronounced to be so. --

/I say

669.1

(29 Nov 1836)

I say boldly of myself that I should make a better Vicar of Pancras
— & manage such a Parish ten times better than any Tory ^vservile Chaplain
which the Bishop of London might put there. & that it is a very improper
and I will add too a very ungrateful act in any Whigg Government to consent
to any Injustice which shall ^uexcl~~u~~de me

yours truly

Sydney Smith —

November 29 — 1836 —

I should like much to know why such Livings as Edmonton for instance are
of more importance than Livings in the middle of Birmingham or Manchester —
their real importance is the magnitude of their income — and the advanced
age of the Incumbents - sic natus Ulysses ? —

[Endorsed:] 1836 Nov 29 / Rev. Sydney Smith —

Public Record Office, PRO 30/22/2D, ff. 94-5.

ff. 98-9 are from the Archbishop of Canterbury to LJR, 2 Dec 36: "...
cleverly written: he takes every advantage fair and unfair" — but would have
been better if this essentially personal letter had been written in a form
which enabled it to be laid before the commissioners or communicated privately
to the Bishop of London.

Incorrect that the bishops' patronage secured for their lives; losing sinecure
patronage immediately.

obviously
returning
both
letters

670

To Mrs Mildmay

30 Nov 1836

Dear Mrs Mildmay --

There are little interests in the World as well as great. Shakespere says Worms and Giants have the same feelings -- a Mr Shucker a Milkman who supplies this house has applied to me to recommend him in the Lactiferous Line -- All that I can say of him is -- that he is a ^very respectable man -- excellent as an Auxilliary Waiter at feasts & Banquets and he delivers every Morning & Evening a certain quantity of White fluid which pass^es in London under the name of Cream -- If you are inclind to employ him he lives as you will see by his Card -- my note requires no answer -- accept my benediction till I see you again -- I go to Dogmersfield tomorrow for 2 or 3 days. --

ever dear Mrs Mildmay yours truly

Sydney Smith

33. Charles St Berkley Square

November 30 1836 --

Wednesday --

Text from my transcript of Baring's MS. Mildmay-White collection.

Sold at Christie's April 1975 and appeared shortly afterwards in cat XIII of Henry Bniskow of Ringwood, item 164 at £22.00.

Not followed up

671
W
To Mrs Austin

[30 Nov 1836]

My dear Mrs Austin —

Your reception at Malta was just what it ought to be every where. — for I have no doubt that all the Vivats were intended for you — and not for the Philosophers. doubtless the two disciples of Bentham — thought that the Maltese were hailing Liberal Principles, — and trancental [sic] Benthamism whereas it was their Joy at seeing Donna Amabile Inglese. —

^a You may depend upon it — all Lives out of London are mistakes — more or less grievous but Mistakes. — ^a Frere is I suppose nearly extinguishd. I always thought him more impertient than witty but I suppose ~~he~~ has lost even his impertinence.

I have been here the whole of November — dining out as usual every day — Mrs Sydney is in the Country by preference — loving flowers, — hating London in this Season — without animal Spirits & small talk — and therefore careless of Society. —

[space] I am going on a visit to Lady Mildmay and Lord Ashburton and shall then go hom^e for 6 or 8 Weeks and then return to London — I hope to pass May & June on the Continent — but perhaps as usual the Seductions of London may prevent me. —

I have made acquaintance with another of Jeffreys Loves Mrs Pennington a Widow — an honest high minded open hearted Woman — she came to stay with us at Combe Florey — and I made as much Love to her as the time would permit —

You will not tell me where you have deposited your young Lady

(30 Nov 1836)

so I suppose you intend she should be hermetically seal'd --
 I have seen nothing of your friend Duer he is I beleive return'd --
 No political news -- the Whiggs have had bad luck in Spain &
 Portugal but I see no probability of a change -- have you
 made acquaintance with Nicholas Nugent? -- he is a good man, and
 has liv'd a good deal among the Wits without being one himself. --
 We had a great run at Combe Florey this year of the learned and
 the fair & I passd not a disagreeable Summer -- -- but nobody
 is more agreeable than you ----- -- so pray come home as soon
 as you can and dont ruin your own Constitution in order to give
 a Constitution to Malta -- the Maltese can live without Liberty --
 but how can I live without you -- ? So come or I positively
 will book myself for Malta -- & perspire with you for a couple
 of Months -- as I would freeze with you under the Pole -- what
 more of Galantry can an aged Priest add ? --

[Unsigned.]

[Addressed:] Mrs Austin / John Austin Esqr / Malta --

[Postmarked:] LONDON 30 NOV 1836

[Endorsed:] 1836 (Novr ?)

[Watermarked:] J. WHATMAN / 1836

Text from original in possession of Gordon Waterfield, Esq.

Partly printed in Janet Ross, Three Generations ^{see} (28 Aug 1835),
 pp. 129-30. a-a is given in L.399 (and thence NCS. 747) as part
 of Sydney's letter to Mrs [Austin] of 9 Nov 1837.

To check agt: xerox supplied by new owner, Mr D.R. Bentham

To Paulet Mildmay

R4(———)
a-a only

13 Dec 1836

672

Combe Florey, Taunton

December 13—1836.

My dear Sr./

I have to thank you for your kind invitation to Hazelgrove but I was too much pressed for time to avail myself of it — I stay'd till the last at the Grange — and was forced to come home as quick as I could for Ecclesiastical matters. — I don't think Alexander the great is increased in humility by his title — Lady A made herself very agreeable — My uncle Ricketts is eminently tires me My aunt I reserve for Consideration — Marianne Ricketts I like. — as I do Potten the great principle of Vegetable fecundation. — [Ⓟ] You are aware that Syson the Clergyman of the Parish has had his nose cut off — I have ascertained from a great Oriental Scholar that Alla ta Hara — means Allez au diable. — This is all the Hampshire news I bring except that I left your excellent Mother in the same Strength of body. the same benevolence of mind, and the same submission

2) 672.1

(13 Dec 1836)

to the Tyrant in which I have always seen her — ⁽⁹⁾ ^a the Tories believe as usual that they are coming in — I cannot discover on what that Expectation is founded — but I am sure they looked upon me as an Atheist for doubting it. — ^(POTS 4) ^{intend. her} To be in a Tory house is really to be in another World — without being in a better one. ^a ⁽⁹⁾ I presume you are in preparation for London — we shall remain here till the end of January or beginning of February — our kind regards to Mrs Mildmay. yours ever very sincerely

Sydney Smith

6 minutes

Your Washing Machine was sent for here some time since — I shall presume you have received it. — & that all your Servants dislike it unless I hear to the Contrary —

[Add:] Paullet Mildmay Esq / Hazelgrove / Wincanton

[Prk:] TAUNTON / 14 DE 1836 / PY POST

[Wmk:] Nil. Stationers Stamp SUPERFINE / BATH

[END (red)]

[END (new)] 6.

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8-X-76

672a
T
To Paulet Mildmay

[Dec 1836]

Extract only:

The Tories believe, as usual, that they are coming in. I cannot discover on what that expectation is founded; but I am sure they look upon me as an atheist for doubting about it. To be in a Tory house is really to be in another world — without being in a better one.

Text from Reid⁴, p. 302.