

790
✓

To Richard York

5 Feb 1839

Combe Florey. Taunton Feby 5 -- 1839. --

Dear York. --

You ask me if I am afraid politically -- my habit is always to view things on the Sunny Side: & I may therefore perhaps be too sanguine; but I am so far from entertaining any apprehensions, that I think the Church & Monarchy may with care, & resolution last five or Six Years longer and that our descent to Republicanism will be less violent, and jolting than is commonly imagin'd -- I may be disappointed, but if it is not a just it is at least a consolatory View of public affairs -- & I beg you will not attempt to reason me into a belief in your own terrors ----

possible
* take
* here

Your Son seems to have a great talent for extending his race he should ^a adapt his Nomenclature to the temper of the Times, and Christen his Children by the patriotic appellations of antient Rome: Lucius Junius ^u Brutus York -- Caius ^g Sempynius Gracchus York. The times of Dick and Harry are gone bye.

I have just publish'd a pamphlet on the Ballot Longman & Co. I would send it you if it were a Size to do so -- but it would cost you five times as much as to procure it in the Common manner. I have taken the Conservative or falling Side which may probably under the Consulship of Roebuck cost me my head. I agree with you in your Eulogium of the Honble Carolines daughter -- I thought

/her

790.1

(5 Feb 1839)

new page

her a most ingenuous, and splendid Maiden. I met William Harcourt as I went down to the West and he travelled with me 40 miles in my Carriage -- he was going to put his Son to School near Stonehenge incomparably the most inconvenient, & inaccessible spot in England. -- but the neighborhood of such a mineralogical phenomenon seem'd to outweigh all other Considerations -- I shall be in London soon after the 18th -- to attack the Bishops. -- & am just recover'd from a sharp fit of Gout. I am relearning the art of Walking and have made attainments of which a Child of four years old would be deservedly proud -- remember me very kindly to all who remember me, -- & believe me ever yours very sincerely

Sydney Smith --

Addressed: Richard York Esqr / Wighill Park / Tadcaster

Forwarded: Burton Constable / Hull

Postmarked: TAUNTON 5 FE 1839 P.^Y POST

TADCASTER

Text from xerox of MS. Major York.

✓ 791
To Longman & Co.

14 Feb 1839

Combe Florey -- Taunton Feby 14 -- 1839

Gentlemen: --

As I did not request you in so many Words to put from the Author, I do not know that I have a right to find fault -- but still I think it is the ^ocommon practice of publishers to attend to this -- & these things though they may appear trifling to you -- are not so to authors ----- I meant to do a civil thing to a Number of persons and you have disappointed me ----- I have told you where I shall be for the next Week, and I trust you will send my M.S. accordingly. I shall be obligd to you to send down with the MS - a copy of the Bp of Oxfords Charge -- and if the MS is gone before this pray send it in a parcel ---- do not send according to the last List -- before you hear from me again --

I mentond that I did not think either paper or print according to the Specimen in the Archbishop of Dublin's Charge -- but inferior to it [-] of this you take no notice.

I am Gentlemen yours faithfully

Sydney Smith --

Messrs Longman & Co --

Rev Sydney Smith / Combe Florey / Taunton / by the Mail --

Text from xerox of MS. W. Hugh Peal.

792

From Bishop Blomfield

16 Feb 1839

London

16 Feby. 1839

My dear Sir

I have to thank you for your very able pamphlet on the Ballot;
the reasoning of which is conclusive; & put as no person could have put it.
But I [sic] will not be offended, if I say, that I wish you had abstained
from an application of the language of Holy Scripture, which to me is very
painful; and to many readers is calculated be injurious [sic], by associating
ludicrous thoughts & images with portions of that word, which ought never to
be approached, or heard, without the most serious and reverential feelings.

I am,

My dear Sir,

Your's faithfully

C. J. London.

The Revd. Sydney Smith

800
To Samuel Rogers

4 May 1839

33 Charles St Berkley Square

May 4 — 1839 —

My dear Rogers —

To breakfast with you in return for your breakfasting
with me is to give you a Shilling for a Guinea — but if you are generous
enough to accept such payment of course I shall be most happy to make it —

ever yours —

Sydney Smith, —

Text from xerox copy of original in library of University College London,
Sharpe papers, permission to publish which should be obtained from Professor
E.S.Pearson, c/o Department of Mathematics, U.C.L.

802

To William Forster Lloyd

19 May 1839

My dear Sr. --

Many thanks for the opportunity afforded me of reading a powerful & closely reason'd pamphlet -- Still if good agriculture is to be judg^Gd of by Crops I must be excus'd for suspecting that Logic which ends in Ballot, universal suffrage & annual parliaments -- they give me a pain in the Neck and in the Pocket -- I am sorry I was not at home when you did me the favor to call. I had gone to drink large draughts of the Western Wind, the Champagne of Æolus

^v
ever sincerely Yrs

Sydney Smith --

Mr Loyd

33 Charles St

Berkley Square --

Text from xerox of letter bound into James Mill's Colony (18), C.380 in Kansas University Library. Special form to be filled ⁱⁿ for permission to publish.

Correspondent (1794-1852) identified by Kansas.

Quære whence date ?

805
To [? Daniel Webster]

14 Jun [1839]

33 Charles St

Berkley Sqr

June 14

My dear Sr --

It is the 23d. not next Sunday -- & pray remember that deeming it hardly fair on our part to engage Travellers to a stupid Tea party -- We will leave you perfectly free in case any agreeable party presents itself & this we say in perfect honesty

very truly Yrs

Sydney Smith

Endorsed: Sydney Smith

Text from xerox of original in Columbia University Library, New York, Kent family papers. For addressee, see related correspondence.

[Sunday 23 Jun fell in 1839]

805

To Daniel Webster Corrected from Harvard mf.

14 Jun 1839

My dear Sr. —

I have not another day disengag'd in July — except Sundays when in Mercy to ~~Sally~~ I do not dine — but my Son in Law Dr Holland & his Wife generally drink Tea with us at 1/2 past 8 — or 9 o Clock. [9] If Mrs W. yourself & Friends will join this family party on the 23d it will be a day of rest to you in the insane and nimious banqueting of this great City — & will give you fresh Vigor for the repletion of the ensuing Week but let such an engagement hang as easily upon you as a well made Garment Come if you have nothing better to do, & if the Chances of Society leave you quite disengag'd — In the mean time if I can be of the smallest use to you in London command me I have little power but much Zeal — & Zeal sometimes makes Power —

I remain dr Sr with sincere respect & regard — yrs

Sydney Smith

33 Charles St Berkley

Square June 14 1839

Mr Webster

nimious = excessive (mainly now sc. law)

Text from D.B.Schneider's in Notes and Queries, CCXIII (1967), pp. 366-7. Original in Harvard College Library.

Webster (Writings & Speeches... (Boston, 1903), XVI, 308) reported first meeting S.S.

at breakfast/ Lon 8 Jun 1839 — "Yesterday I breakfasted with Sydney Smith, long known as the greatest wit in England. He is a clergyman of much respectability."

nimious = excessive (mainly now sc. law)

807
To Mr Lane

23 Jun 1839

Dear Sr.

Mr Webster is a very distinguished American Gentleman who wishes to see you/r/ hall pray have the goodness to indulge him in that Wish -- very truly Yrs

Sydney Smith

33 Charles St Berkley Sq^{ue}

June 23d 1839

Mr Lane

Text from D.B.Schneider's in Notes and Queries, CCXII (1967), pp. 366-7. Original in Harvard College Library. Schneider notes that Mr. Lane may have been one of the Lanes listed in the London Post Office Directory for 1816: 'Lane T. & S. Solicitors, Goldsmith's Hall, Foster Lane'. [More probably he was beadle (? ASB).]

Corrected from Harvard MS. on microfilm

✓ 809

To Lord Duncannon

29 Jun 1839

33 Charles St Berkley Square

June 29 — 1839

Dear Lord Duncannon —

I am extremely oblig'd by your good nature in sending me a Key of Green Street Gate — I have bought a house in Green St. and as Mrs Smith & I are both getting larger & less locomotive it will be a very great convenience — I remain my dr Lord

very truely Yrs

Sydney Smith —

Ld Duncannon —

Athenæum Club.

810

To the Warden of the Minor Canons' College

2 Jul 1839

July 2d 1839, —

33 Charles St Berkley Square ✓

My dear Sr, ✓

The Sunday dinners between the Services are extremely inconvenient, My Eyes are failing very fast as is my general health, I find great difficulty in reading my Sermon in the bad light of St Pauls and I want the time immediately before the Service to impress my Sermon on my ^ememory, [space] I am (as you all know) a very temperate man but it is almost impossible as Master of the House to sit ^{down} among my Guests without eating & drinking to a certain extent and to do so at the very unusual hour of ^{of [sic]} half past one and to preach after it invariably gives me a bad head ache,

The same dinner it may be urged might take place after the Services — but then all plea for a Sunday dinner is over — and if the manners of the age are not favorable to parties on a Sunday it would be unwise in a body of Clergymen not to respect public opinion on such subjects. —

If I continued my dinners I should be under the necessity of absenting myself from them an incivility and want of respect to my reverend Brethren of which I could not consent to be guilty, and I should feel also that dinners carried on without my presence degraded my house to the level of a Tavern —

I hope therefore it will not be disagreeable to the Minor Canons and Vicars Choral If I convert these dinners into a Money payment.

I have accurate Books of the Expences of ^ddinner since I have been Canon of St Pauls (books open to the inspection of any gentleman who has a wish to see them) I find from these accounts that the Average Expence of each dinner has been including Wine ^f3L-3S and the Average Number of Guests (excluding those not belonging to the Cathedral) has been seven.

I shall place in the hands of Mr Sellon at the beginning ^{of} each Residence

/four

810.1

(2 Jul 1839)

four pounds for each Sunday the month Contains & have already placed [£]16^l for the present Month payable to the joint order of the Warden and any one of the Vicars Choral.

It has been a great pleasure to me to have seen at my table so many ~~gentle~~ gentlemanlike & agreeable men I have really been honord & pleasd by their Company and I sincerely hope I shall retain their friendship & good will.

I beg you to make this Communication to the Minor Canons and Vicars Choral & remain my dr Sr Yours truely.

Sydney Smith

Mr Knapp

G. L. Prestige, St Paul's in/its Glory (1955), pp. 253-4. Context, p. 253

Checked against
Ms. at St Pauls
October 1971

[Endorsed:] Letter from Rev^d S^r Smith / 2^d July 1839. / HJK Warton

813
813

To the Warden of the Minor Canons' College

6 Jul 1839

Dear Sir,

I am afraid the Mr Canons have mistaken Courteous language for hesitation as to my own rights.

I shall be heartily sorry to have any difference of opinion with Gentlemen I so much respect & regard but I really think I am not arrogant in saying that every man is the Master of his own house, & the judge of whom he will or will not receive — I have no right to save money by abolishing ^a ~~an~~ old Custom but where the question is who shall be my guests and who shall not I have a ^{er} ~~pp~~ perfect right to chuse between the Custom & the pecuniary Value of the Custom —

I am Sr ^{yr ob st} ~~Yrs~~ truly

Sydney Smith

July 6, 1839.

33 Charles St

Mr Knapp

G.L.Prestige, St Pauls in its Glory (1955), pp. 254-5. Context, p-254

Checked agt MS at St Pauls, Oct 1971

[Enclosed:] Note for Rev^d J^r Smith / 6th July 1839 / HJK handwritten

814

To the Warden of the Minor Canons' College

[6 Jul 1839]

Dear Sr. ^{o/}

Why could not some Mr Canon farm these dinners as Mr Hall does for Dr
Blomberg - he receives [£]3/- for each dinner / I pay [£]4/-

The more I reflect upon it the more I am struck with the Singularity of
compelling a man to give ^{you} a dinner who says it is unpleasant & inconvenient to
him to do so, and who moreover offers a fair equivalent. I am surprised that you
are not struck by the unusual Style of this proceeding.

Yours truly

[Addressed:] Rev^d Mr Knapp / Margaret St / Cavendish Sq / 68ⁿ Sydney Smith

[Endorsed:] 2^d note from Rev^d Dr Smith / rec^d 6th July 1839 — / HJK Warden

[Watermarked:] J GATER

G. L. Prestige, St Paul's in its Glory (1955), p. 255: noted by Prestige as
"received by the Warden on the same day as the foregoing." Checked against MS St Pauls 107,

815

To the Warden of the Minor Canons' College

7 Jul 1839

Dear Sr. ✓

One point I ~~missed~~ in my Letters to you, and rectified this omission by a message through my friend Mr Bennet. & which for the purpose of greater accuracy I put ^{up} on paper --

I consider the Paulini prandentes to dislike the idea of a Money payment. it is my intention therefore to invite them four times to my own house to dinner between this & the end of July 1840. -- & to continue my invitation to every Member of the Paul Fran -- always -- once for every Residence. & I hope these dinners will be in all respects preferable to our hasty dinners on Sunday -- at any future time if the Paul Fran (a term I use to avoid circumlocution) prefer a commutation for Money either with the whole Chapter or with me individually it can easily be done --

I remain dear Sr

Very truly Yrs --

July 7th. 1839. ✓

Sydney Smith

33 Charles St Berkley Square. ✓

I am forced ^{to} postpone my invitation till my return to Town in February 1840, --

because I am changing Houses & both are dismantled but this will not occur again.

Knapp acknowledged this (Draft St Pauls) after meeting on 5 July: "I am directed to inform you that as the commutation offered would be inconvenient to them, as well as going away with a long standing privilege and custom, they respectfully decline, & as your proposal is embodied in your proposal"

Enclosed: 7 Letters from Rev. S. Smith 7th July 1839 HJK Warton

G.L.Prestige, St Paul's in its Glory (1955), pp. 255-6.

The last of the series
Evidently checked against MS. St Pauls
October 1971

817
✓
TIA
T
To Cecil Smith

11 Aug 1839

Dear Cecil —

I see little objection to any thing else — I suppose all the Gentlemen — will subscribe I will one pound a year (not a guinea which I hate) — I am glad nothing is said about poaching if there had been — or if there is I must decline — not that I think Game may not fairly be protected by Combination but then it must be by those only who have an interest in Game —

Yrs ever —

Sydney Smith —

Combe Florey August 11

1839. —

[Endorsed:] Sydney on B L Association

New College [Bod.]

819

w

To Popham

18 Sep 1839

My dear Sr --

Mrs Sydney orderd her Carriage at eleven to give Mrs Popham her last Lesson in Worsted. the rain (which must end in a general deluge) stoppd her. I said "make the Pophams dine here tomorrow to meet John Warre and give Mrs Popham her Lesson here -- they are too much aware of our respect for them to be affronted with the Shortness of the notice -- & I think they ⁱwill come"

You see what a good character I give you behind your back~~s~~ so pray come -- the Story runs that the first person who offerd to pull you & Henry Warre out of the Water was a Whigg and that you both preferr'd remaining in the pond to be[ing] assisted by him --

ever truely Yrs

Sydney Smith.

September 18~~4~~ 1839. --

Mr Popham --

We dine 1/4 before 7 --

Text from xerox of original in possession of Mr Martin Higham.

? John Ashley Warre of Stratford Place London and Cheddon Fitzpaine Somerset, M.P. for Lostwithiel. b.1787, d.1860.

821
To Lady Carlisle

1839

May I ask how my old friends do — & whether they are back in good health & spirits ? —

I have done nothing since you went away, but write little pamphlets — some by your order against B_allot. & others by my own insubordinate spirit against Bishops. —

I think you will find the Whigs damaged — I date their fall in public Estimation from their return to office after resignation — Gallantry & the chivalrous spirit, are admirable in all the common courtesies of life — indispensable when Ladies are to be handed to their C_arriages — or defended from rudeness. — but it ought not to meddle with politics — There was no reason for resigning, & still less for coming back, because a young Lady could not abide Sir Robert Peel —

Most of the changes are bad — The appointment of P. Thompson will offend the Aristocracy here — & the Canadians — There is no Prestige in it — If good sense is the only thing wanting, send an Attorney at 6/8d. per day. —

————— is a bad ingredient too —

I cannot believe that Thompson means to take the title of Lord Johnson.

We are both tolerably well — Mrs Sydney a little worse than her years — myself a little better — I am afraid Lord C_arlisle has not been very successful in keeping off the old Enemy — I have better luck — Desire him to take the following remedy every night,

/a dram.....

821.1

Hc

(Sep 1839)

a dram of Compound Tinct. of Rhubarb, a dram of Carbonate of Potash, in an ounce & a half of Camphor Julep

Saba is with us — with all her children adopted & real — I wish I was free & could make you a visit at the Castle — as I cannot, accept all good wishes from your old & sincere friend

Sydney Smith.

Combe florey. Septem^r. 1839

Text from Haskleton (Garrowby) papers (Emily's transcript)ⁱⁿ, A1.4. 22B.2, pp. 7-8. This adds a great deal to NCS 788.

826

W

To Lord Grey

30 Nov 1839

56 Green St Grosvenor Sqre

November 30 -- 1839. --

My dear Lord --

Barnes is the first Living above £300 of which I have had the disposal it is not impossible that if he passes this that I may be able to do better for him. though this is by no means certain -- However I have written to Francis this day to say so -- and if he accepts Barnes I shall wait his answer to this second notification -- at present I have not heard from him at all --

There never was such a fellow as Philpot -- I would have given Lansdowne 5 Guineas to have let me answer Philpots Letter -- I am sure somebody ought to have done it for him -- for he has made a miserable business of it --

They are going to thrash [?] the Chinese -- so lay in your Stock of Tea --

The Ministry are very proud of their Marriage -- I dine with the Hollands today -- they are both extremely well --

God bless you

S S --

Text from photostat of Durham Univ. Dept. of Pal. & Dipl. letter.

827
✓

To Edward York

15 Dec 1839

December 15 -- 1839. --

Combe Florey

Taunton. --

My dear Sr. --

I heard only the other day and heard with serious concern of the illness of your father and the very sudden and disagreeable way in which took it place -- pray tell me how he is -- and give my very kind regards to him -- he is still a young man and I dare say with care and attention will come about again -- I am just return'd her from London and find Mrs Sydney very well at least very well for an old Woman ---- I am also a very old man but fight up against ^{increasing} ~~my~~ infirmities I hope your Lady & family are quite well & I remain my dear Sr yours very truly

Sydney Smith --

Addressed: Edward York Esq Jr / Wighill Park / Tadcaster

Postmarked: TAUNTON 15 DE 1839 P.^Y POST

D 16 DE 16 1839

Text from xerox of MS. Major York.

828

To Lady Holland

[?1839]

A Winter Salad.

Two well-boiled potatoes, passed through a sieve; a teaspoonful of mustard; two teaspoonfuls of salt; one of essence of anchovy; about a quarter of a teaspoonful of very finely chopped onions, well ^sfringed into the mixture; three tablespoonfuls of oil; one of vinegar^s; the yolk of two eggs, hard boiled. Stir up the salad immediately before dinner, and stir it up thoroughly.

Text from Edward Cheney's in Miscellany of the Philobiblon Society, XV (1877-84), section 7, pp. 23. Could perhaps annotate N.C.S. p. 778, dated by him [1839]

snige is Cheney's reading

830

To Lord Morpeth

[1839]

My dear Morpeth --

Soup -- fiddles Ices and Lemonade have nothing to do
with politics --

I am a Whigg partially discontented^t but my discontent is not with
the Irish department.

Instead of being discontented with you I take an earnest interest
in your increasing reputation, & power -- I could not come to your
party because (from inattention to the hour nam'd) I had engag'd myself
to dine in London & I thought I might be miss'd among 12 people & could
not be so among 1200 -- ever my dear Morpeth sincerely Yrs --

Sydney Smith --

When you write to Lady Carlisle pray tell her that the last time I saw her
she desird me to write a pamphlet on Ballet & to collect my Works -- in
obedience to her I have done both, --

From xerox copy of original in Greater London Record Office (London Records),
Q/WIL/414. Contemporary endorsement '1839', confirmed by reference to Ballet
pamphlet.

831

T

To Lady Georgiana Grey

[1839]

My dear Georgiana. —

It would have given us sincere pleasure to have seen you but we had no chance against Sister, & Theatricals — If ever you come near here in Summer it will be worth while to stop here to see this very snuog [sic] parsonage & very beautiful Country — at present the Earth is in full desolation — You do not say when the Earl & Countess come up — I hope I shall find them in London the end of next Month ——— You say We without saying who made the plural in your journey — never mind — whoever knows you, & loves you is my friend & my guest if I can get him, or her.

We are all well saving Mrs Smiths Eyes which are failing —

Why should not John Grey be Dean of Exeter ? remember us very kindly to the Morleys — private Theatricals make me shudder public are bad enough.

Lord Durham puzzles the Government they have no idea what he is going to do —

I hope your father & Mother are not fretting about Canada
God bless you dear G your affectionate friend —

Sydney Smith —

[Addressed:] To the / Lady Georgiana Grey.

[Endorsed:] Rv Sydney Smith 1839 (in red ink) 1839 (in pencil)

Text from my transcript of Hickleton (Garrowby) MSS., A1.8.17.7.