

To _____

10 Dec 1794

December 10th. 1795 —

Dear Sr. —

You was so obliging as to say that you would put on the Linen Ephod, & minister in the temple for one Sunday. — a Letter I rec'd Yesterday & read this morning, informs me that my eldest Brother is to be at Bath for a fortnight. I should wish very much to meet him, & you will enable me to do it if you will do duty for me on Sunday 4th of January. —

Now those high Ecclesiastical pow'rs myself & Mr Gibbs have unfortunately so arrang'd it, that on that individual day I am to do duty at N-avon at 10. & Bulford instead of Fileden at 2. — therefore tell me fairly, whether this exertion will be too much for you. & how far your vocal, theological, equitatin, & all other pow'rs which such an undertaking would call into avtion are sufficiently strong to carry you thro'. To me it will certainly be an accomodation, & a considerable one but I shall think such accomodation dearly purchas'd if it puts you to any great inconvenience —

Yours sincerely

Sydney Smith —

P.S. Will you be so good as to send an answer by the bearer

MS. Gordon N. Ray. *From xerox of original*

Filedan = Rykelstan

To Robert Smith

26 Jun 1796

New Coll. June 26. Sunday. 1796 —

My dearest Father. —

As my expences have alter'd with my situation — I think it will be more satisfactory to you — if I state what that alteration will be, & upon what grounds I have applied to you for the money I have already receiv'd & shall be compell'd to apply to you for more. — I set my expences this year at £110. — I shall beg the favor of you to give me £10 more, to pay the expences of removing my goods, of replacing the loss in the sale of my furniture which cost £35. & was sold for 27. & to make good e [sic] necessary repairs to my chamber before it can be inhabited. — in talking over my expences at my curacy, you agreed to allow me. £122. 12s per An — My mother by yr desire kept the copy of the particulars. — this sum was exclusive of. e horse — I rec'd from you last Year £40. — which leaves £18 for the horse — now the horse cost me as follows. —

| | £. | S. | D. |
|-----------------------------|-------|-----|-------|
| Hay. - - - - - | 13. | 5. | . |
| Oats. - - - - - | 1. | 5. | . |
| Fitting up Stable. — & | | | |
| articles of sadlery - - - - | 1. | 14. | 5.— |
| Farrier & Blacksmith - - - | 2. | 12. | 5.½.— |
| Grooming & Tax - - - - - | 1. | 15. | . |
| Wils hire [?] 2 Journies to | | | |
| Weymouth. 2 to Wincanton - | 3. | 9. | 8. — |
| | <hr/> | | |
| | 24. | 2. | 5. — |

(26 Jun 1796)

The difference is £6.2s.5d. — my Priests orders cost me £1.5s.6d. — this will make my whole expences for the Yr £127.7s.11d. I have rec'd from you £40. £12.10. from curacy . . & £50 I shall receive from Fellowship — in all £102.10s. — I shall therefore apply to you in the course of the year for £25 more if you will be so kind as to give it me. — which will make my rec't from you this year £65. — I hope my dr Fr you will not look upon it in a bad light, if I apply to you to make good to me these small sums. — but really they are serious sums to me, & in spite of all my oeconomy — & the assistance you are so good as to afford me — I am sometimes without a shilling in my pocket. — The filley I forgot to add was exactly in my possession a year. — a College Tutorship is exactly 50 pr An. — If I could get one I should in that case exonerate you — but I will be entirely guided by you in this respect. Were I to consult inclination alone, I do assure you, I had rather after some time return again to a curacy. — but I think you will be very much burthen'd with Robert — & will be glad of such an alleviation of expence. — ^{space} I consider my Fellowship clear of all deductions to be about £50 An. — with 50 more I shall be able to live decently while I stay at College — & I hope to be able to save £10 out of it to attend the university Lectures. — I hope my dr Father you will do me the favor of writing to me. — as it will be a proof that you begin to feel a returning regard for me. — I wrote 2 Letters to Maria at Upney. — a long while

(26 Jun 1796)

ago & have rec'd no answer, I suppose she has been busy in the
removal. ^{space} My Mother has begun to retake the Zink, God send it
may do her as much good as it did formerly. — I have wrote
to Bobus to come here in his way to Devonshire but have as yet
receiv'd no answer. — will you [accept] [~~unanswered by~~ seal] of
my company — If I come down to you for so [me time] [seal] in
the long vacation — which I shall be able to do if our journey
to Wales is put off — as I suspect it will be; I hope my dr
Father you have made an advantageous purchase — and that the
premises, & the neighbour hood are such as you like, the harvest
about Oxford has a very good appearance — upon the Wilt# downs
bad on the Gloucestershire hills middling. Miss Williams is
come to Williamstrip. — the eldest of the youngest Monks whom
you have often walk'd with at Bath — enter'd ^e at Oxford — & was
derang'd in about a month — after his entry in a very odd &
entertaining Way. — the young bandy leg'd Youth is under a
special tutor at Cheltenham reads Pilgrims Progress for ever. &
fasts rigidly in Lent. — I shall go to Mr Beach about the
middle of next month. — Adieu my dearest Father — give my best
love to Maria & my Mother. I should be glad as soon as may be
to hear your sentiments about the Tutorship. — — —

[Unsigned.]

[Addressed:] Robert Smith Esqr / Beauchamp / Tiverton / Devonshire—

[Postmarked:] OXFORD

3
John Trower, whose mother was a sister of Robert Smith, was a London stockbroker
in partnership until 1812 with his brother Hatches Trower, the friend & correspondent

To Robert Smith of David Ricardo. (see P. Sraffa, ed., 9 Jul 1796

The Correspondence of David Ricardo, VI (1952), pp. xxiii-xxv). Mr

Williamstrip July. 9. 1796. — Anthony Trower kindly searched his family papers for ~~me, but~~ relevant information, but without success.

My dearest ^FFr. —

v
*
I thank you most sincerely for your Lr as I look upon it to
be a proof of returning affection. I am extremely sorry that
any misunderstanding ever subsisted between us. — & certainly
think myself to have been more in the wrong, than I suspected
I was some time ago. — at present I come into Devonshire with a
desire of accomodating myself to the family as much as I poss-
ibly can. — Against one part of yr Lr my dear Father I
must enter my protest. — your memory in this instance fails
you. — I never did directly or indirectly make use of the ex-
pressions you impute to me, to this assertion I must adhere. —
You are under a great mistake if you suppose, that I do not
love my Fa^{ther} & reverence, his talents. — it is utterly im-
possible to convince any man against his will, I can only
solemnly assert it to be the truth. — I thank you my dr
Fr for £20 which I have receiv'd safe. — I must be at
*
Oxford. — the 1st Thursday after the 10th of August. on the
day after I shall set off for Devonshire by the ro^{ute} that you
point out. — I will write to John Trower, as you desire
me. — tho I suppose his visit will be paid before my arr-
ival. — I am really extreme[ly] sorry for Lord Holland. — It
must throw him back in life very much. — heavy damages — & a

(9 Jul 1796)

duel will most probably be the consequence of his flight with Lady Webster — perhaps a long residence on the continent, & estrangement from his own country. they are thrown back in their haymaking in this County very much by the wet weather. — the harvest looks tolerably well. — Mr Beach thanks you for your congratulations, & begs to be remember'd kindly to you & the family —

Mrs Williams has been here some time, they are extreemly [sic] pleas'd with her. — I have had no opportunity of talking to her as yet, but I think she appears to be contented. — She has I find been a Roman Catholic but abjur'd 10 or 12 years ago. — I am extremely [ni] happy to find that my Mother & Sister are well — my best love to them adieu my dr Fr accept again my thanks for your Letter which I acknowledge to have been a gr[eat][seal] condescension on your part, & beleive me y[our] dutiful Son. Sydney Smith. —

Williamstrip Park —
Fairford. —
Glocestershire.

[Addressed:] Robert Smith Esqr / Beauchamp / Tiverton / Devonshire

[Franked:] M. free Hicks Beach, Fairford 10 July 1796.

[Postmarked:] FAIRFORD

(4)
To Robert Smith

3
T
3 Apr 1797

Netheravon, Amesbury Wilts. — Tuesday, 3d April 1797. —

My dearest Father. —

My pupil came to me one day later than our engagement, I did not get to N. till Friday Evening. could not bring Mr B. to a close engagement till Sunday. no post on Monday & to day you have the result of our conference. — I began with saying that the times were so much chang'd since he first took up the idea of placing his son under my care, that I thought him wholly justified in abandoning the idea if he wish'd to do so. — that if he still did me the honor of wishing the connexion to subsist, but was alarm'd at the state of the continent, I was extreemly [sic] willing to attend his Son to Edinburgh. — that I had purposely began the conversation from an apprehension, that out of consideration^t to the engagement he had form'd with me, he might be induc'd to do, what he in his heart disapprov'd. — Mr B assur'd me in the warmest manner, that his first wish was, that his Son should be under my ^ccare — he confess'd that he had a considerable degree of alarm at the state of the continent, but that his mind was not yet made up — he was balancing between Germany & Scotland. — & wish'd for a fortnight to see the progress of political Events & to consult people in Town well inform'd upon the subject. — to this I cheerfully acceded [sic]. — & here

41 T
(3 Apr 1797)

the matter rests — nothing was said of Salary, nor can be
I suppose with propriety till our plan is definitely arrang'd.
Mr B. is gone to Town this morning — returns towards the end
of the Week — I mean to be with you on Friday God bless you my
dearest Father — Love to all at home.

Sydney. —

Huntington Library microfilm. HM 30413

5
To Robert Smith

5 Nov 1797

New Coll. Oxford. November 5th. 1797. Sunday.—

My dear Father —

I expected somebody or other would tell me before now where you were gone to — but as I have not heard, I must write to you at random. — I was receiv'd with so much hospitality & treated with so much kindness at Mr Dyke's that I was induc'd to stay till the Thursday following. — 10 months ago — I saw Mr Dyke lay the foundation of his manufactory, & when I visited him a fortnight past he was cloth^d in a Coat of his own fabric. — these are the kind of men who put a little energy into the country. — I was detain'd at Bath till the Sunday following for want of room — I took Mr Beach in my way for one day. — Nothing material pass^d in our conversation, except that I told him I had mention'd my engagements to you, & that you perfectly approv'd of, & were much pleas'd with them. — at this he express'd his satisfaction. — (space)
I prefer introducing the subject of salary by Letter, for I am sure I shall not do it well in conversation. — I have written to Maria, & Bobus — & heard from them in return since I saw you. — I sincerely hope my dear Fa^ather that these Ships have brought you the long expected remittances. — I hope you will acquaint me with every particular very soon. — I have open'd my German campaign. I hope it will not turn out so difficult, & tedious as I am told. I have engag'd a French, & German Master 3 times a

(5 Nov 1797)

week each — Once again my dear Father give me leave to express a hope, that you will soften your resolution, & permit me to stay a longer time With you & the family — than you limited me to at my departure. If you wish me to stay away to prevent the fatal consequences of a rupture between us; I have only this garantie to give you that you never had before, "upon a serious review of my conduct I have allow'd myself to ^{have been} ~~be~~ principally in the wrong. which till that time I never even dreamt of — If you meant it as a rebuke for my conduct ^{upon} ~~when~~ the particular occasion you mention'd, remember I shall see no more of you for 2 or 3 Years, & if in the interval I lose you which may be the case — or my Mother which I very much fear will be the case, — the punishment you inflict, will [^{much}] [^{seal}] be more severe than you meant it to be — whichever way you decide I acknowledge you have been much provok'd — & I submit — adieu my dearest Father & beleive me with every sentiment of respect, & regard yours

Sydney Smith. —

[Addressed:] Robert Smith Senior / John Trower Esqr / No 2. /
Tanfield Court / Temple. —

[Postmarked:] OXFORD [&] NO 7 97

6

5
T

To Robert Smith

25 Nov 1797

New Coll. November - 25. 1797. -- Saturday --

I thank you my dear Father very sincerely for the remission of your resolution. -- I shall now leave this country with much greater tranquillity than I otherwise should have done. -- ^{space}

The defalcation of the Indian remittances is truly a most serious blow., a blow that would have overwhelm'd any man whose activity & resources were less than yours. -- give me leave to call your whole conduct in this business, & your thorough reliance upon Cecils honor, truly magnanimous & heroic^c --

Much as I regret my conduct my dear Father, I have this to say in my justification, that I ~~was~~^{err'd} from the earliest time I can recollect with my judgment, & not against it .. that (generally speaking) I beleiv'd myself to have been in the right -- as much as I Now beleive myself (generally speaking) to have been in the wrong. -- I hope the conversation upon suicide which pass'd between us, had produc'd no other unpleasant sensation in your mind than the want of respect to you, of which I am sorry to say, you have a right to accuse me. -- You know the world too well to beleive, that a bookish, man like myself governs his conduct by the metaphysical nonsense which he petulantly, or pedantically advances in company. -- When I come into your house, I ought to cultivate you in every way that a man cultivates his Father, his benefactor, & a man, of

(25 Nov 1797)

whose talents he has a very exalted idea. — & **If** I cannot act up to these principles I ought to stay away — to come into your house, from any principle of accomodation, is unworthy a good & an honorable man. When I look back on the very different **I**deas, I have had upon this subject, ~~I~~ am astonish'd you did not do long ago, what you have recently done, & am asham'd, that an act of spirit on your part — should have effected that, which ought ~~to~~ have been effected by a sense of propriety on mine. — ^{Em. sp.}

To these new sentiments of the fair, & rational obedience which a Son owes to his Fa^ther, I will not insult your understanding by adding any thing of real, or apparent servility. — You want a respectful manner, & where acquiescence is not possible, a silence upon certain subjects. — to be sulky is the pitiful resource of a man who dares not be imperious, & overbearing, & who is too ill temper'd, & indolent, to be respectful, & polite. — As often as I behave to you, with the regard, attention, & deference, which you have (without referring to curs^ed [?] metaphysical principles but taking the word^e as it goes) a fair right to expect, I most sincerely beleive I shall find you a very agreeable, easy temper'd man, & an indulgent Father. — & with the most pleasing expectation that my hopes on this subject ~~will~~ ^{will} be verified, I end the subject. — You say nothing my dear Fa^ther of Bobus's marriage, I am sure you have felt a good deal upon the subject. — I have too. I met Miss Vernon at Ld

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7

(25 Nov 1797)

Bobus

Lansdownes. — & was delighted with her; her figure & appearance are commanding, her manners very affable her temper sweet, her understanding very superior, all solid, effective — leading to conduct, fit for sterling practice, in short just the woman to win Bobus's heart, & to govern him with the greatest possible advantage. — & amidst all the truly surprising Talent which Bobus possesses, — I have often been in some dread about him, & wish'd that he might marry himself to that faculty (judgment) of which nature has perhaps been the least liberal to him of any — but this may be an unjust apprehension to which my affection may have given birth. — If you have ever been of this opinion my dear Father, & have dreaded the consequence of his turbulent passions upon his success in life, you may I beleive expect the most happy corrective from the clear & right understanding of your new daughter. I do not say this to mitigate your anxiety, this is short-sighted policy, you would not beleive me another time, I really think it, (tho it certainly has its inconveniences) upon the whole, a happy circumstance — I beleive I am to be ^{the} Imam, but the honor has not yet been announc'd to me in form, only a hint, that it might be so, if I officiate I will send you a very accurate description. do you not think, I ought to write to Miss Vernon, after the marriage, in case I do not go up to marry the [incomplete]

7

To Robert Smith

29 Dec 1797

I shall be very glad to see Miss Pybus, pray remember me very
kindly to her. —

Netheravon, Amesbury, Wilts. Friday. — 29. Decr. 1797. —

My dear F_ather. —

I am very much oblig'd to you for the concern
you take in my welfare, & for the advice you have given me: in
pursuance of that advice, I shall certainly before I leave this
place introduce the subject of salary to Mr Beach, & settle it
on as firm & certain a footing, as it can be plac'd. — I do not
consider my connexion with Mr Bee^ech, in the light of a common
connexion between P_arent, & tutor. — Long before they had any
views of this kind, I experienc'd from Mr, and Mrs B. the
greatest hospitality kindness, & regard, which I never can, or
will forget. — I cannot from my situation in life, wave ^[sic] all
consideration of Salary. — but if Mr Beech contrary to my
expectations, should either from an ignorance of what is usually
paid to me in my situations, or from the pressure of the times,
offer me an inadequate salary. — that offer surely my dear
Father ought to be definitive. — I could not for a moment think
of remonstrance, or reference to any body. — Nay, I should
carefully conceal the salary I receiv'd, if I thought it likely
to convey the smallest imputation on Mr Beech's liberality. I
thank you very sincerely for your offer of interference in my

(29 Dec 1797)

favor, I am sure you consulted my interest, in making it, & I am as sure, you will respect those feelings which induce me on this occasion to decline it. — I beleive Ld Lansdowne has been tolerably correct in his account of tutors salaries, but I cannot help thinking it to ~~be~~ a service extreemly [sic] overpaid. — I have convers'd with Mr B. & our plan is definitely settl'd. — we set off the beginning of May. — for the university of Neufchâtel in Switzerland — if that Country is not revolution-iz'd before — if it is — for Saxe Weimar. we shall be stationary for about 8 months in the Year, & travel the other four. — my object will be to get Letters for both the abovemention'd Towns, or for any of the Courts of Germany or Towns in Switzerland that we are likely to visit in our excursions. — & if you can assist me in this point my dear Father, I shall be very much oblig'd to you — I shall beg of you when I see you to point out some of the best lines of travel from ~~the~~ ^{these} two central points. —

I cannot possibly account for Bobs negligence. I am sure he has often talk'd to me in the most feeling manner upon the subject. — I shall I believe be at Bath about the 10th or 12th of Jany. — You are very good my dear Father to desire to see me again before I go, tho' it must unavoidably be for a very short time. — ^{para} I am very much pleas'd to hear so good an account of Cortenay, his Letters to me had nothing in them. — The house is

SW Discarded
in 23 Aug 97

(29 Dec 1797)

at present full of Fox hunters, the first opportunity I shall mention your offer to Mr B. — which I dare say will please him very much, in the mean time I thank you on my part. — My reason for [not] mentioning [seal] to Mrs Olier, the cause of your coolne[ss] [was] that I thought you did not wish it should be known [that] Dr Beddoes was expell'd from his professorship at Oxford for attacking the clergy. — *Mr Beech laugh'd at the account of the dressing you gave him.* — I am very sorry that you have remark'd any thing like deceit in Cecils Letters. -- I hope to God he will not forfeit at last the high character he has so very fairly establish'd with us all. — pray give my love to my Sister & mother. — I hope my mother has continued well — God bless you my dear Father & beleive me

yours sincerely.

S Smith. —

[Addressed:] Robert Smith Esqr / No 3 Edgar Buildings / Bath

[Franked:] M. free Hicks Beach, Amesbury 31 Dec 1797.

[Postmarked:] AMESBURY

(8) [Addressed:] Robert Smith Esq.

? early May.

7

To Robert Smith

[Spring 1798]

Netheravon, Amesbury, Wilts. — Wednesday. —

My dear Father. —

I am sure you interest yourself too much in my welfare. — not to wish to know as soon as possible the place to which we are certainly to go. — Mr Beech settld that it should be Edinburgh last night. — No other communication pass'd between us which it is of importance to relate. — I am doubting about the route we should take there. — but am rather inclin'd to Birmingham Manchester Liverpool — & so along the NW. Coast. — What way do you think best ? — Nothing but the greatest Shy-
ness in the world has prevented Mr Beech from settling with me upon the Subject of Salary. — You may depend upon it this shall not prevent me from bringing about an eclarcissement ^[sic] on this subject, which I am sure will be the most satisfactory method of proceeding to all parties — I cannot say such a conversation will be a very pleasant one to me, but no man can do his duty in life, who is perpetually shrinking from unpleasant situations — I have no news to send you from this dull, & melancholy Country — in which there is nothing good but 2 or 3 families. & some fresh air. — We shall I beleive go to Town early next week, but the day is not yet settl'd. — & I rather beleive, Berkley Square will be the place of our residence. — but of all this I will send you word in good time. — God bless you my dearest Father & beleive me very sincerly yours —

Sydney. —

⑨
To Robert Smith

[31 May 1798]

My dear F_ather. —

Mr Beech has made me a present of £500 8 pr
Ct Imperial funds — & a promiss note for £500 surely [?] at the
expiration of two years. that is in June 1800. — he did this in
the handsomest way in the world. & I think he has paid me very
liberally. — Nothing has given me a greater pleasure in this
transaction, than the probability it affords me of not being any
longer hereafter, the burthen I have always reluctantly been to
you -- Nothing was said about expences — he pays I suppose all
those that are ordinarily paid upon these occasions — & my
pocket expences — Clothes Washg &c I must defray from my fellow-
ship, & the interest of my £500 —

We set off tomorrow morning & shall seperate at Oxford on Sat-
urday — Mr B. going on to Williamstrip & me to Warwick. Mrs
Smith has been so good as to mention our intended visit there to
her Sister & I suppose we shall dine there on Sunday — the day
after we go on to Birmingham &c. I have been tolerably fort-
unate in procuring Letters of introduction, & hope to meet with
a very pleasant society there. — I could not write to you an
account before of what pass'd between Mr B. & myself — as an
explanation only took place yesterday & was began by him. — I
have sent the money for the Shirts to Jane Cazalet at Bath she has
not yet acknowledg'd the receipt of it. —

I have din'd once with Mr Justice Grose, & once with Mr
Andrews & the Pybus's — Mr Andrews is an odd composition, Every

9.1
T
Cazalet: Mr P.V.F. Cazalet, present head of the family,
kindly searched his family papers for me, but found (31 May 1798)
no mention of Sydney or his father.

thing in him that is not from the factory is from the City, &
Hackney assemblies — but they say he is a very worthy respect-
able man — & that he treats her extremely well — Mr Vigne has
ask'd me to dine twice, when I have been ^engag'd. — The Trowers
are all as they were, John is gone down to the Sea Side — Uncle
John & myself are great friends. —

Bobus & Caroline are going on very well — she is falsely
reported to be calving — Bobus has to plead again next term
about an estate of Brandts. The general idea here about the
duel is that Pitt was originally in the wrong, & more so for not
explaining. — but that the whole [seal] was not personal
enough to justify [seal] ^{dr—*} in calling him out. — give my best
love to my dear Mother. & Maria — I hope that at the expiration
of two years — I shall see you stout, & happy — God almighty
bless you. —

Sydney.

Thursday Morning —

[Addressed:] Robert Smith Esqr / Beauchamp / Tiverton / Devonshire

[Franked:] M. free Hicks Beach. London, 31 May 1798

[Postmarked:] (31 May, but not wholly legible)

Huntington Library microfilm. 31 May was a Thurs. HM30418

* says Jean Preston's letter of 11 Nov 09

To Mrs Hicks Beach

3 Aug 1798

Portna cross — Friday August 3d. 1798

My dear Madam —

We have been making a little excursion to the Highlands — & are on our way home which we shall reach Wednesday next — I cannot get my drafts chang'd in Edinburgh — without their being previously sent to London, to remedy this inconvenience will Mr B be so good as to write to Messrs Hoares to send to Sr William Forbes & Co — Parliament close Edinburgh a Letter merely stating that I have a credit in your name upon their house in Town — & that the Bills I draw will be pay'd by them? — Mr B will have some reason to be alarm'd when he finds that I drew — the 24th or 23d July — for 100£ making 300£ in the whole. — but out of this 300£ there remain'd on e 1st of August — a balance of 185£ - 3s - 5½d. — I drew for the last 100£ before we went on Tour because I thought we might want some money soon after we return. — & the want of such a Letter of credit as I have mention'd there is always a great interval between the presentation of a draft — & its payment. I have enterd into this detail to explain the seeming extravagance of drawing for 300£. in 2 months — & not from any apprehension that Mr B or yourself would feel any anxiety on this account — but because I did not like to leave it unaccounted for — Michael is in very good health — & we are going on very well —

If I can (in spite of the reluctance to study) carry him on in a course of improvement, tell him his faults — & retain his esteem — I shall succeed almost beyond my hopes, & entirely to my satisfaction —

I am going to laugh at you a little but for being so fine a Lady as to receive 4 or 5 Letters from me without vouchsafing to send me a line in

/return.....

(3 Aug 1798 cont.)

return. — I shall direct all my Letters to her Grace the Dutchess of Williamstrip — till you let me hear from you. —

We have din'd at the Duke of Buccleugh's — & met the French King's brother there & his suite — we were not much pleas'd with our day. — her Grace is a most excellent woman — but a very stately piece of antient life as I ever saw — e Duke seems to be one of these kind of men who baffle all attempts to hate, praise or blame ^{them?} him — He knows not the Earth who has only seen it swelling into the moderate el[eva]tion or sinking to the gentle descent of Souther[n Hi]lls & Vallies -- He has never trod on the margin of the fearful precipice — journey'd over the silent wilderness — & gaz'd at the torrent hiding itself in the profound Glen -- He has never view'd nature but as she is associated with human industry & is unacquainted with large tracts of the earth -- from which the care of man can hope for no return [—] which seem never to have been ^{quieten'd?} quieten'd with the principle of vegetation, or to have participated in the bounties of him whose providence is over all. — This we have seen ⁱn the highlands. Yet we have mortified the body in gratifying the mind, we have been forc'd to associate Oat Cakes & Whisky with Rocks & Waterfalls, & humble in a dirty room the conceptions we indulg'd in a romantic Glen — I remain my dr Mdm. with best regards to Mr B & every sentiment of respect — your very sincere friend. Sydney Smith —

Text from xerox copy of N.L.W. MS. 11,981E. Addressed Mrs Beach :
Endorsed August 3d 1798 and (later) Michael tour in Highlands

Part in M., pp 33-34.

(11)
To M.H. Beach

12 Aug 1798

38. South Hanover Street -- Edinburgh August 12 -- 1798. Sunday. --

My dear Sr --

We return'd in the middle of last week from our excursion to the highlands with which we have been a good deal fatigu'd, & a good deal entertain'd

I shall not bore you with a regular recital of every thing we saw -- but merely notice the most striking objects.

Dunkeld the seat of the Duke of Athol. -- is a very strong featur'd place -- Rocks, Woods, & Waterfalls are tumbl'd together in delicious horror -- The order, & regularity which have arrang'd the rest of the world never found their way here -- Chaos, & Confusion have maintain'd their antient Empire at Dunkeld. -- In the midst of these Scenes we set down to dinner with the most beautiful dutchess of Athol -- & the most imprudent Dutchess of Gordon. -- the next day the horses of the latter Lady happen'd to take fright, she flung herself out of the chaise -- & escap'd injury by lighting upon her bum a part upon which she might certainly descend from much greater heights, with equal impunity. --

The fall of Fyers, between Inverness, & Fort Augustus is 207 Feet high -- the rocks from the basin of the Water fall -- 470 -- the descent to it difficult, & dangrous. & the view of the fall so dreadful -- that it really requires a considerable effort of Corage to look upon it for any length of time. --
?WT

Loch Lomond the very fine, is less so than the Scotch would have a stranger imagine. -- We toild 6 Miles to the top of Ben Lomond & were

/rewarded.....

(12 Aug 1798 cont.)

rewarded only by cursory flashes of Light in the deep & general fog which hung over the mountains. -- this was just shewing us enough to convince us of our loss. -- Glasgow is a fine city -- but not to be compar'd to Edinburgh -- The falls of the Clyde will even bear seeing after the fall of Fyers -- Nothing struck us more than the Cartland Craggs near Lanark -- a small River has made its passage of 10 or 12 feet ^{in?} breadth -- thro' Rocks that tower 300 feet above it on each side. -- the passage [seal] 1/2 a mile long -- consider what a Scene th[seal]

Near Lanark is settld a Mr David Dale -- a man so largely concern'd in e Cotton Works. that he alone without any partner employs. 1700 Souls. -- he is a very religious, & benevolent man & is remarkably attentive to the morals, as well as the comforts, & happiness of the manufacturing Children -- they are admirably instructed, & brought up with an attention to cleanliness -- that is truly delightful. -- he very often gives them a dance -- the Evening we were there -- after the hours of work there was a general country dance -- of above 200 Couples -- We knew nothing of it till the following morning -- or of course should not have miss'd so pleasing a spectacle -- I love to see the beauties of nature, -- but I love better to see the hand of active piety ^{stretch} ~~stretch~~ forth, to Such young orphans as these the innocent pleasures of life, the benefits of instruction, & the blessings of religion. -- It is dreadful to observe in Manchester, & Birmingham how manufactures brutalise mankind, how small the interval is between a weaver, & a beast. -- What does his Country not owe to a man who has promoted industry without propagating vice -- who has enlarg'd the bondaries of commerne & strengthend the ties of moral obligation?--

To Bobus Smith

[Autumn 1798]

[Fragment only, this ~~unusually~~ the recto:]

tremble now at writing a Letter, I do not beleive in 10 Years more
that we shall be able to get you to write your name. -

Needy Knife Grinder whither are you going
Rough is the road, your wheel is out of order
Keen blows the blast, your hat has got a hole in't
So have your breeches. -

Needy Knife Grinder little think the proud ones --
Who in their Coaches roll along the Turnpike
Roads What a Labor tis to ~~try~~ out Knives &
Scissors to grind oh.

Weary Knife Grinder how came you to grind knives
Has some rich man tyrannically us'd you
Was it the Squire or parson of the parish.
or the attorney. -

Was it the Squire for killing of his game or
Covetous parson for his Tythes distraining
or roguish Lawyer made you use your little
All in a Law Suit --

Heave you not read the rights of man by Thom Paine
Tears of compassion tremble on my Eyelids
Ready to fall as soon as you have told your
Pitiful Story. --

Story God bless you I have none to tell Sr.
Only last night a drinking in the Chequers
This Coat & hat & breeches as you see were
Torn in a Scuffle --

[verso]

Constables came up for to take me into
Custody they took me before the justice
Justice Old_mixon put me in the Parish
Stocks for a vagrant. --

I should be glad to drink your honors health in
A Pot of beer if you would give me Sixpence
But for my part I never love to meddle
with politics Sr. --

I give thee Sixpence rather see thee damn'd first
Wretch whom no sense of wrongs can rouse to vengeance
Sordid degraded reprobate unfeeling
Spirit less out cast --

cont.....

To Bobus
12.1

T

[Autumn 1798]

Exit in a transport of universal philanthropy & kicks over the
Knife grinder & his wheel. —

I forget just now the mode of making Ice — but will make a point
of enquiring here — & sending you the account of it --

Your 3d request of learning to write music I am afraid I
cannot comply with — I attend one lecture myself — which takes
up me 2 hours — & give 4 hours to Beach every day — I have seen
young Blackburne, — he is five feet 10 Inches — & weighs about
15 Stone — I will shew him every Civility that my Situation
will admit of. — he appears to be a good natur'd young man —
I am extremely sorry you discontinued the correspondence with
Miss Vernon — did you really drop the correspondence because
you thought it troublesome to Miss Vernon — or are you a
superior character lurking in unjust obscurity, & do not think it
[incomplete]

New College [Bod.]

Watermarked J. WHATMAN / 1794

Cannings from first published in Anti-Jacobin
27 Nov 1797; Bobus m. Caroline Vernon on 9 Dec
1797. Presumably in the University term after
their establishment. The Miss Vernon clearly a
member of Bobus's ^{half's} family.

Bobus m. Caroline Vernon 9 Dec 1797

1797 25 Sep 1797 - July 1798

13

Early NOV.

T

To Robert Smith

[Nov] 1798

Edinburgh — 1798. 38 South Hanover Street. —

My dear Father. —

I wish you joy upon your prospect of being
 a grandpapa — which I confess I did not imagine from that quarter
 you would ever become^m. — John Trower I find has been with
 you. — how did you like his friend Mr Cooper — I hope that your
 impressive conversation & ardent hospitality induc'd the young man
 to offer Letters for Cortenay to his relations in India, — of
 whose power from Cortenays representations we ought to think
 very highly. —

I have sent John some prints which I was forc'd to subscribe
 for at Oxford — they were publish'd by poor Broughton. — & I
 was not sorry [sic] to have an opportunity of shewing to John
 Trower my recollection of the kindness I have experienc'd from
 him — by the bye do you not think that John behaves in a more
 opulent way than he did 2 or 3 Years ago ? — At least there
 were I thought while I was in Town very visible marks of an
 increas'd Capital in his air, & manner.

I should be glad to hear your opinion my dear Father about
 Buonapartes expedition — at least thro' the medium of Maria —
 for I despair of ever seeing your hand writing again — Is it
 madness ? — or have we serious reason to tremble for our Shawls,
 & Muslins ? I am very much inclin'd to think, that a great deal

Presumably
Correct

To Robert Smith
13.1

Dundas "Henry Dundas, the first Viscount Melville,
was the Phoenix of Scotland. Who steered upon him was
safe; who disregarded his light was wrecked".
Cockburn, Jeffrey, i. 77, for a character sketch
(Nov 1798)

of real danger is to be apprehended from it. — There
has been some little Fracas here in the Corporation — The
Subject of Contention seems to be who should serve Mr Dundas
with the most implicit obedience — he is omnipotent in this
place. — We are all overjoy'd at the Capture of the
French — Scotland would be the most vulnerable part of the
Island if Ireland should ever be separated from Great Britain. —
adieu my dear Father accept my most sincere wishes for your
health & happiness —

Yours ever —
Sydney. —

[Addressed:] Robert Smith Esqr. / Beauchamp / Tiverton / Devonshire
—/

Huntington Library microfilm. HM 30419

Note: the child was not Robert (Lyveden), b. 1800; failure of the
French fleet to take Ireland was Oct 27.

14

To John George Clarke

5 Dec 1798

38 S. Hanover Street 1798 Edinburgh Decr. 5.

Wednesday. —

Dear Clark —

As these formidable distances entirely deprive us of the opportunities of meeting I should be glad to know how you are ~~getting~~ *going* on, by intelligence convey'd under your hand & Seal — are you practicing crimes or bringing them to justice, are you defending the cause of the ravish'd as an advocate or ravishing professionally as a soldier are you stabbing antagonists or refuting them *by* cutting the thread of their arguments *for* their existence? Is it Ink that flows, or blood — Is parchment beat or scribbled on. — I rather suppose you have followed the example of the versatile Nestor, who was at once a light horseman & an orator — ~~παντοκρατορας~~ — I like this place extremely & cannot help thinking that for a literary man, by which term I mean a man who is fond of Letters *by* it is the most eligible situation in the Island. — It unites good Libraries, liberally manag'd *by* learned men without any other System than that of pursuing truth, — very good general Society — large healthy virgins, with mild pleasing countenances, & white swelling breasts — shores wash'd by the Sea — the romantic grandeur of antient, & the beautiful regularity of modern buildings — & boundless floods of Oxygen^e — Some little defects it has to be sure, but they are frivolous and ludicrous, one is as you must have observ'd, a total want of ^{all} faecal propriety and excremental delicacy. — They seem to vye with one another here in the work of concoction, to glory in the work of the lower bowels & to revel

[two Greek words to be added]

/in.....

(5 Dec 1798 cont.)

in the Alvine discharge. — Before every man's door lay the ~~manly~~ ^{nesterna vitia [?]}
 & the discriminating Nightman blesses the abundant Viscera of the one &
 curses the barren constipation^s of another. Our situation is a little
 improv'd since I saw you, & I now begin to think, I shall pass the latter
 part of my life in pious orgies[—] and decent prayers as I originally
 intended rather than in the rubbing down of horses & in the accumulation
 of petty profits by the Sale of Gingerbread and roast apples or other
 revolutionary employments. I hope your ^{bro}father is well, what is he about? —
 I have been hearing Harry Erskine speak today, who is at the Scotch bar
 what his brother is at the English. — His voice is in the accent of a man who
 is mimicking the Irish brogue — his manner awkward — & olicranious —
 i.e. beginning from the Elbow — he is not without Tautology and hesitation —
 but upon the whole better than most men you hear at the English bar who
 are to be sure very bad. ^II heard him in a cause where he had to state
 common facts, & reason upon them, a subject that did not admit of passion
 or imagination. There is a professor here a [Mr.] Dugald Stewart who beats
 every speaker I ever heard in manner & acting.

Yours^s my dear Clarke very sincerely,

Sydney Smith. —

If you can spare time to write to me I shall be glad to hear from you, will
 you be so good as to direct to me under cover to Michael Hicks Be^ech Esqr^s
 M/P, Netheravon, Amesbury, Wilts.

[Addressed:] John George Clark Esqr / Swakeley / Uxbridge / Middlesex. —

Text from the version printed by G.C. Heseltine, 'Five Letters of Sydney
 Smith', London Mercury, XXI (1930), pp. 512-17. Taken from originals at one
 time in possession of T.B. Clarke-Thornhill, a descendant of the addressee,
 who lived at Swakeleys, Uxbridge, Middlesex. (Presented by C.T. to B.M. 27 Nov 1912.)

Corrected from B.M. Add. MS. 38650, ff. 93-4.

check MS.)

To Robert Smith

[1798]

38 South Hanover Street. — 1798. —

My dearest Father. —

When a man has been reflecting a long while upon a mode of doing an important thing — he generally finds the simplest way is the best. — I do not see the necessary connexions between subjects of consequence and words of many Syllables, or phrases of studied arrangement, & therefore shall tell you my Story plainly & Shortly, taking care not to sacrifice to brevity that respect & regard, which I feel for you, & owe to you. — I have long wish'd to marry & think that state of life to be almost the only happiness that is worth looking forward to, I know but one woman, who unites fortune understanding & good disposition in a degree, that makes an alliance desireable with her, & who at the same time is not in a situation of life that puts her out of my reach. — Under this ⁱimpression I engag'd myself to Miss Pybus while I was in Town, — & just at the time I was leaving it — Some letters have pass'd between us since, to settle more fully a subject which we had settl'd very imperfectly before. — We have nothing more to settle, & in consequence, I communicate to you our intentions.

The first sensation that will arise in your mind upon reading this — (& it is the first ^{which} ~~that~~ has suggested itself to me) is, why my intentions were not communicated to you, before they were carried into execution. but you my dear Father must know how these things are carried on, Nobody sets out with a systematic intention

(1798)

of making himself fond of any woman. -- but he thinks himself quite safe & free at first, but assiduity is added to assiduity, & kindness heap'd upon kindness on both Sides, till affection which has gather'd by slow & unperceiv'd degrees is at last so great that the option is taken away, & all consultation & advice is a mockery. -- at the proper time of asking it, nobody means to marry -- at the usual time of asking it nobody means to follow advice, unless it agrees with his previous determination. I hope therefore you will attribute my conduct in this respect to the ordinary ⁿterror & impulse of mens actions & thoughts, & not to any want of respect, -- & affection. -- It would be more pleasing & flattring to you & my mother, If I had united myself as my Brother has done to a family of distinction but when I look to my pretensions I really think I had done as well as I had any fair reason to expect -- & when I look to my heart -- I am quite content. -- I know you think Miss Pybus's person very ^adisagreeable. -- but this consideration is so entirely confin'd to opinion -- & the evil (if it exists) is so exclusively my own, that I am sure you will not give me unprovok'd pain by commenting on the Subject. -- Her fortune Is I believe £8000 Sterling -- So I have understood her account -- I think If we can make up £500 a year ^{clear} between us that we shall be able to marry. -- it is my wish at present to push myself as a preacher either in Bath or London -- I have been flatter'd that I have some talents for

15.2

HL

(1798)

this kind of exertion — but there is time enough to think over this — I am almost confident that if I do not distinguish myself in this Line I shall never distinguish myself at all — perhaps I shall not be the less happy if the latter alternative is my lot. — but in any determination of this **Sort.** I must recollect that I have the inclinations of another person to consult as well as my own. — Will it be in your power to afford me any assistance? till fortune or my own exertions renders it unnecessary — any will be of service to me — but of none will I accept upon any account whatsoever, which goes to deprive you of what you may deem an important comfort — You have done enough for me, — I am more oblig'd to you for the education you have given me, than if you had put me in a way to get rich — & so I will say if my poverty keeps me single all [seal]. [my life]

I shall of course, stay out my two ^y years with Mr B. — [the first notice of her intended union to me should of course come to ~~her~~ ^{the} family ~~of~~ ^{of} Miss P. ^{from} herself -- I most earnestly beg you therefore my dr Father that it may remain a profound Secret with you — both on this account — & because you must be aware how unpleasant match making rumors are to a woman & will you lay this injunction on my mother & Maria? -- I do not know any thing else I have to add — but I cannot conclude without adding that I entertain a hope that this news will not be wholly

(1798)

unacceptable to you — there are no solid objections to such a connexion — it gives to be sure neither Splendor or importance to our family but it confers real happiness upon one of your children — who though he cannot boast of having curb'd a bad & unruly nature from a sense of filial respect & obedience — has always lov'd you from the bottom of his heart. —

Sydney Smith. —

[P.S.] Will you be so obliging as to write to me at once — without sending this Letter thro' the medium of Mr B. —

[Addressed:] Robert Smith Esqr / Beauchamp / Tiverton /
Devonshire. —

[Altered to:] ³Edgar Buildings / Bath.

by S.S.

Huntington Library microfilm.

HM 30720

Note: prob. after other 1798 letter, which makes no allusion to this.

16

To John George Clarke

5 Feb 1799

38. South Hanover Street Edinburgh-5th Feby. 1799.~

Tuesday. — M.H. Beach Esqr/ M.P. Netheravon, Amesbury, Wilts.~

I thank you my dear friend very sincerely for your kind & pleasant answer to my Letter. — I value your worth, your talents, & your disposition very highly, & am proud of your friendship. — I shall always rejoice in your welfare & speak good of your name. — I am glad you was pleas'd with my brothers Speech — he represents himself to me as having been exceedingly frightened & assures me he forgot the best half of his Speech, this I have gently insinuated to him may have been an advantage. Whenever you have wrote anything that you think particularly fine said the old College tutor to his pupil — Scratch it out instantly. — This is a very busy season in Edinburgh — the Turbot fishery has began & every man is laying in his stock of Sez — ^{Soy?} Cayenne Pepper & Chili Vinegar. — I never witness'd any thing equal to the voracity with which this Savory monster of the deep is devour'd, a serious silence prevails at table — the passage of the voice is entirely shut up — people are hermetically choak'd — no sooner is the mouthful reduc'd to atoms of Turbot — than another that has been resting impatiently against the Lips & panting for maceration is admitted dripping with liquid Lobster, & rushes down the common sewer of culinary filth. — a profuse perspiration breaks out, the Eyes stare — the Garments are loosen'd — the Labor is intense — it would seem as if the end of all things were expected, & as no Turbot was look'd for elsewhere men had all join'd in the common sentiment of let us eat, & drink for tomorrow we dye. —

Soy?

I am indulging myself in a little ^{cu} serious reading — did you ever take up Roger Bacon — I have procur'd a flich of him — his Opus ^{majus} ~~magnus~~ — & am

/determin'd.....

Num
WT

(5 Feb 1799 cont.)

determin'd to see on what his great reputation rests — he seems amazingly eager in the cause of Letters & for the promotion of Science — but principally for a reason which I confess ^{hitherto} ~~has~~ not had any great Share in animating me in my Studies — Viz:— That the great dangers which will happen ^{to} ~~the~~ the World in the time of Antichrist may be more effectually guarded against — Whence comes it that our friend Mr. Pitt has been so egregiously deceiv'd in the affairs of Ireland? I am sorry the measure has miscarried because I hear the men say in the Coffee-house that it is right — but the introduction of 100 Wild Lawgivers into our Sanhedrim would have made strange havoc... not to speak of the immense Sum it would have cost us in raw meat ~~and~~ [&] keepers — ~~&~~ [&] How does that old Rabelais Shyte Duncan do-? If you see him give him a good Scolding for not writing to me —

I continue to preach every now & then & see the faithful yawning at my feet — but however if they will gape & swallow, I will forgive them one for the sake of the other, — return good for evil — & write to me soon tell me how you do & how you are going on whether you have discover'd the great secret of life — quā ratione queas ^[?] traducere leniter cervum — quid minuat curas? ^{&c.} ~~It is~~ a secret of more value than the Acres of Swakely, — the depth of Dunning or the Eloquence of Chatham — remember me kindly to your brother — & believe me my dear John George most firmly ~~and~~ [&] sincerely yours

~~Sydney~~ Smith

[Addressed:] John George Clark Esq / Swakeley / Oxbridge / Middlesex. —

Text from the version printed by G.C.Heseltine, 'Five Letters of Sydney Smith', London Mercury, XXI (1930), pp. 512-17. Taken from originals once in possession of T.B.Clarke-Thornhill, a descendant of the addressee. (Presented by

Corrected from B.M. Add. Ms. 38650, ff. 95-6.

C-T. to B.M. 27 Nov 1912.)

To Mrs Hicks Beach

17 Sep 1799

Llanon Caremarthenshire — Tuesday night

17th September — 1799. —

My dr Madam. —

I like your cousin Mr Talbot he is good temper'd, unaffected, — & civil — I should think him too to be generous, hospitable, ^aexpensive & passionate, fond of his wife & children to dotage. Lady Mary seems to be an amiable valuable woman who uses her influence over her husband to the best purposes. — She is Shy a little rural, for which I like her not the worse — & very handsome — I see no harm in Mr Davenport Talbot — for a man who has been in the Dragoons he appears rather gentlemanly than not, he is good looking, civil, & not deficient in understanding. —

Miss Porter perhaps ought not exactly to be set up as a model of good breeding, judgment, ^abeauty, or talents. — She is I dare say a very respectable woman, — & may be a much more sensible woman — than I think her, but I confess in my eyes she is a very ordinary article. — Lady Elizabeth has a countenance that it ^adangerously interesting, & intelligent. — She talk'd enough to show me that she had a considerable power of pleasing, when she chuses to put forth her lively talents. — tho' I think at the same time that these talents would derive good part of their force from her pretty little figure, & her bewitching Smile. — She seem'd to wish to be Sulky. — but I drove her every now & then to talking — & I am afraid talk'd too much myself to induce her to shew me (as the vulgar say) of what ^uStiff she was made. — but however we did pretty well together, as well as a clumsy parson can do with a fine Lady. — Penrice is a pretty place enough in a wretched

/country.....

To Mrs Beach
17.1

(17 Sep 1799, cont.)

country. -- the flower Garden is delightful. -- but for any communication with the human species -- a man may as well live in Lundy Island as at Penrice. Netheravon is a gay crouded Metropolis after it -- Michaels Leg is nearly well. -- we are stopp'd at this miserabl^e place all night. for want of horses. tomorrow we go to Llandiloes -- in our way to Milford Haven -- where we are bound by Mr Talbots express command. -- We shall cross to Chester by Aberystwith. Bala -- Vale of Llangollen Cerwen -- &c -- Col Wood was very civil to us -- gave us breakfast -- ask'd us to dinner, & promis'd Lrs. --

Miss Brown is not very famous you may have observ'd for speaking the most correct English -- 6 or 7 faults she constantly makes -- I promis'd to note them down for her -- & meant most religiously so to have done -- but lo & behold now when I attempt it they are all flown & I cannot get hold of one of them -- the ^{virtues} ~~virtues~~ & good qualities of the lady I could enumerate by the dozens -- but all recollection of her faults is obliterated, therefore you must make a dictionary of errors for her instead of me -- what I would most seriously do -- if I could -- because I hate to trifle with promises upon any occasion

cf. NCS 46

My best regards to her & the excellent Madam de Marteray [?] -- to whom I wish most sincerely well -- & whose health -- I hope I shall ^{learn} ~~hear~~ from you to be perfectly reestablish'd -- remember me very kindly & affectionately to Mr Hicks Beach I do assure you -- (tho' I hate waiting when any thing is to be done) I was very sorry to part from him & the wh^ole family -- with whom I spent as merry & as pleasant a month as I shall ever pass again in

/the.....

To Mrs Beuch
17.2

(17 Sep 1799 cent.)

the course of my life — perhaps — adieu my dear Madam & believe me
with the greatest respect yours —

Sidney Smith. —

Michael says it was a great bore that ^t Mrs Williams sh'd kiss him — I
reprov'd him for shrinking away when a Lady attempted to kiss him — by
which means she only kiss'd his Whiskers. —

Text from xerox copy of N.L.W., MS. 11,891 E. *Several later endorsements.*

'Llanen' in address is presumably Llannen, Carms.

The reading Sidney is correct

To John George Clarke

28 Sep [1799]

Shap — Westmor^{land} — Saturday night.

~~October~~ September 28. —

& I myself my good friend am going to be married, & to Miss Pybus & when I return from Scotland — & why should I not — did not the godlike Paris marry the garment dragging Helen, & does not Hector wish him at Hell. — oh venerable mother if I could see the godlike Paris descending into black Hell. — then I should be free from mind eating care, — a decent wish ^{enough} for so near a relation. — but what is all this Sr is not the whole book a mass of incongruities — did ever two men stop in the middle of a battle to change breeches before Glaucus & Diomed. — your father stopp'd about 2 days at my Father's house, they exchang'd a tobacco Stopper & a Bootjack — So do you get out of those blue pantaloons, & get into my Sticking plaister Breeches — & how neither of them came to receive a spear in their ^{bums} ~~bums~~ during this strange barter I cannot tell. — I was not willing you should learn these my nuptials from the morn^{ing} post before you learnt them from me. — So I have run the hazard of disturbing your gravity by the annunciation — I have been thro N. & S Wales — Why should I tell you of the Salt Mine 900 feet deep into which I yesterday descended. — & the wonders of that saline hell. — I sat in a tub such as is us'd for exoneration in Edinburgh with a ^{Pelti} ~~But~~ coat wrapt round me — from dearth of Trousers. In the same tub was a fellow who look'd like Lot's Wife after her Metamorphosis in the month of October. I shall be there in two days — ^{— drops of Salt came in my Eye — You promis'd you wou'd come to Edinburgh} & beg you will write to me at the Post office — I know perfectly well the issue of that royal idiot's going to Holland — many gallant gentlemen of England will be slaughter'd & leave their weeping Tailors behind them, much

/antient

(2⁸) Sep 1799 cont.)

antient Christian blood will flow into the White Sea & Herrings will
 live upon Russians — We shall [ms. torn] Gazettes spend three millions
 of m[ms. torn] last be beaten — over Cranium b[ms. torn] & next winter
 that venal rimer Pye will talk about Batavian Laurels round the Brunswick
 Brow —

God bless you my dear Friend —

remember me kindly to yr/ Br/ —

[Unsigned.]

[Addressed:] John George Clark Esq / Swakeley / Oxbridge / Middlesex —

Text as printed by G.C.Heseltine, 'Five Letters of Sydney Smith', London Mercury, XXI (1930), pp. 512-17, taken from originals at one time in the possession of T.B.Clarke-Thornhill, a descendant of the addressee. (presented

by T.B.C.T. to B.M. 27 Nov 1912.)

Corrected from B.M. Add. Ms. 38650, ff. 97-8

To John George Clarke

27 Oct 1799

19 Queen Street.— Edinburgh.— October 27, — 1799.

How can you my good friend misname the sober communications of a priest,
the ravings of a Bacchanal. — Nothing is more true than what I have told
you, I shall quit Scotland in May & be married soon after.— I shall get a
house some 20 30 or 40 Miles from Town a curacy if I can. — the first year
I shall have with me a younger son of Mr Beach's as a pupil.— whether I
shall take any more pupils or not I am not at present determin'd — The
price of £200 a year which I set on my freedom is not likely to give me the
option.— but I shall be just so situated in point of finance, as to leave
me in indifference whether I am free, or more rich. — As for the Lady. —
She is 3 years younger than me, a very old friend of mine — a good figure —
& to me an interesting countenance.— of excellent disposition, extremely
good Sense, very fond of music, & me.— a wise amiable woman such as
without imposing, specious qualities will quietly for years & years make the
happiness of her husband's Life — It is foolish to say all this, because
none of it will be believ'd - but yet, I say it at my peril of being
wretched if it should be false — & so you may believe me, I have thought
it well over — Why do I marry?— because I have not much chance of pursuing
any worthy object of ambition with success — & with this blank in my
existence I must fill up my life with all the good & honorable affections
which occur only in a state of marriage. — I have told you my plan — & if
you can forward it in any way — I am very sure you will — I shall do
very well in the world I dare say — but if I had half as much apparent &
exterior, as I have of real & intrinsic prudence I should do much better —

/this.....

(27 Oct 1799 cont.)

this is very vain — but if you will not admit it to be true, you will
 I am sure have the politeness to allow I am deficient in both. — happy
 is the man who possesses the appearances of good qualities rather than
 their essences — by old women shall he be prais'd & muffins & hyson shall
 be his lot. I attend the hospitals where I learn the elements of a puke
 & the rudiments of purging www the viscera rustica will pay for this
 when I am settled in my parish. — my advice (Which you know I was always
 fond of giving) to your brother & you is this. — come & pass the winter
 here in attending the lectures. — & in dancing, I will venture to say you
 pronounce it the most agreeable winter you have ever pass'd. It will be
 very easy in the mean time to give out at Uxbridge that you are both dead. —
 where I hope some time or other to find you both well & as happy as I wish
 you.

[Unsigned.]

[Addressed:] John George Clark Esqr / Swakeley / Uxbridge / Middlesex. / England —

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Corrected from B.M. Add MS. 38650, ff. 99-100.