Byron’s Correspondence with John Murray, 3: 1820-1824 [work in progress]
Edited by Peter Cochran

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Peach: Annette Peach: Portraits of Byron (Walpole Society reprint) 2000.

There are 160 letters here from Byron to Murray, but only 45 from Murray to Byron. One might think, not that Byron was about to sever his relationship with Murray, but that Murray was cooling towards Byron. The imbalance is often a sign of Byron’s frustration at Murray’s long silences – and Murray’s silences seem often to be a result of his bewilderment at being bombarded with non-stop letters from his mercurial author – to say nothing of non-stop poems, plays, and prose works, all in different styles, none of them very commercial. I don’t expect Mrs. Rundell, his other best-seller, was this difficult. Byron’s attitude is summed up on July 6th 1820 with “You must not treat a blood horse as you do your hacks otherwise he’ll bolt out of the course”.

Byron is so impatient that he often seems to forget the five-to-six-week time-lag between his sending Murray a letter, and Murray’s answer reaching him, and writes as if e-mails existed.

Murray’s poor spelling is perhaps a consequence of stress, perhaps of the need to get his burdensome duty out of the way. Unlike Byron, he never checks through or revises, and he never makes a secretarial neat copy.

“As for you you have no opinions of your own – & never had – but are blown about by the last thing said to you no matter [up right-hand side:] by whom” (Byron to Murray, August 31st 1821). “... no – Murray – you are an excellent fellow – a little variable – & somewhat of the opinion of everybody you talk with – (particularly the last person you see) but a good fellow for all that ...” (ditto, November 3rd 1821).

Low as Byron’s estimate of Murray becomes during these years, he doesn’t want to move to anyone else. Much as one part of him despises Murray’s government connections (as publisher to the Admiralty and so on), another part values the connection it keeps giving him with the establishment – as Murray puts it in characteristic style on September 6th 1821, “I have studiously avoided every party publication & this more strenuously every year and my connexions are I believe even more numerous among the Whigs than the Tories – indeed the Whigs have nearly driven away the Tories from my room – and Jeffray said “if you wish to meet the most respectable of Whig Whigs you must be introduced to M’ Murrays room”.

Several of Murray’s letters are missing. The most important quotation we have from them is in Byron’s letter to him of March 15th 1822: he has evidently asked Byron for “a poem in the old
way to interest the women” – which sums up his dilemma, for Byron is no longer writing them, and is indeed ashamed of having written them at all.

As with many of Byron’s letters (and poems) the desire to stir things and create trouble is often perceptible: see his letters of May 10th 1821, August 31st 1821, and October 24th 1822.

1820: In February, Byron moves into the Palazzo Guiccioli. He translates Canto I of Pulci’s Morgante Maggiore, and writes The Prophecy of Dante. Flattered by Alessandro Guiccioli’s comparison between himself and Alfieri, he writes Marino Faliero, the first of his three classical tragedies. In July, Teresa is granted a papal decree of separation, and moves into her father’s house at Filetto. Byron sends his Memoirs to Moore. On December 9th, the military commandant of Ravenna is shot in the street outside the Palazzo Guiccioli, and Byron puts the event into Don Juan V.

From Hobhouse to Byron, from Newgate, January 18th 1820:

Just one word for your private ear – of course honor bright that you do not let it get round for you know my horror at explanations with booksellers – do not write any thing to Albemarle Street you do not wish to be seen by all the public offices – The man does not mean to do you a mischief – but he is vain, Sir damn’d vain – and for the sake of a paragraph with “my dear M” in it would betray Christ himself.

Murray to Byron, from 50, Albemarle Street, London, January 24th 1820:

My Lord

As Mr Moore is still on the Continent, & uncertain if the Letter might not demand an immediate answer I availed myself of your direction to open it – and pounced at once on all its poetical opuscular – the epigrams are all good & I intend to avail myself of them without hinting at their Author – – I was much disappointed at the change of your intention of visiting England, but I have am before the year closes – unless you migrate to South America whose distance is to great for my Pursuits –

I had a conversation with Mr Kinnaird upon the subject of your liberal proposal respecting Don Juan but as this is almost the only occasion on wch I have found it necessary to disobey your wishes, I hope for your forgiveness. Re-funding is dangerous as a precedent. I admire the poem beyond all measure & am supported in this estimation by every man of judgment in the kingdom – who wish for a few alterations merely to give wings to the rest & so far am I indisposed to receive back the Copy Money – that I would not take double the sum if it were offered to me – the pirate edition is not countenanced by the booksellers & if it were or had any important sale I would sell mine for nothing & give every purchaser a Glass of Gin into the bargain. You will have

The Lord Byron

1:2

done me the justice to believe that no personal consideration would have induced me, under the circumstances, to have gone into court, & my process was abandoned the moment I found that the authors name must be given up – wch is rather absurd for this puts an end to all anonymous writing – if a rascal chooses to print Waverley for instance – the bookseller or proprietor can have no redress unless he disclose the name of the Author – I have printed Don in 8vo to match the other Poems & again in a Smaller form – the latter not yet published – of the Octavo I have sold 3000 Copies so you see we have circulation in us – I want nothing so much as a third & fourth Canto which I entreat you to compleat for me as progressive to the remaining Twelve. I am anxious to know more of Dantes Prophecy wch is exactly suited to you.

1: To-day it is my wedding day, or Here’s a happy new year! but with reason; Posterity will ne’er survey / A nobler grave than this; With death doom’d to grapple / Beneath this cold slab; and In digging up your bones, Tom Paine …
You must know that Blackwoods – commonly called Blackguards – Magazine is a scurrilous publication – I was smitten by some cleverness in it & thought I could have regulated its judicious application – but finding I could not I instantly cut the concern – although I had paid for a half share. It is conducted by Wilson the Author of the Isle of Palms – a man without principle who reviewed Don Juan merely to catch a penny & who is incessantly writing composing & singing – bawdy & blastphemous paraphrases of the Psalms to all the young fellows of Scotland – the publisher has been repeatedly kicked – <wh> & scourged – & persecute

ed – but he is, perfectly callous a base fellow <cto> whom I once introduced to your Lordship & who has gained both honour & profit – as my agent by the sale & reputation of your Lordships Poems – they are a most unprincipled set – To shew how the public taste still obtains for our various writings – I printed a very beautiful edition of the Works 3 Vols 8vo for £2. 2. 0 N° 3,500 Copies were brought out in April last & they are nea<l>rly all sold – in less than 12 Months – – therefore Moore – I pray you Moore – it is the universal decision that in beauties Don Juan surpasses all that has preceded it – Can you keep up to this?

Will you send me a series of Epistles Prose & poetry on Manners &c of Italy? One Octavo Volume? – Capt. Fyler has been with me & will positively fulfill your Commission about Dogs – I bought a Capital Bull Dog for you & after paying for his feed for 4 Monts I got the Man to take him back thinking – as you never renewed your order on this subject to me that you had mentioned it in Joke – By the first conveyance I will send you a supply of all things including Dentifrice Soda Books &c.

With regard to domestic politics I can assure

you that all revolution is compleatly overcome – the Whigs made compleat fools of themselves & have lost all Chance of getting into power on the backs of the Radicals –

I am exceedingly vexed at the conduct of M’ Hobhouse for he <is no> has not taken a line in wch there is even the possibility of advantage to him – Sir Francis stands & will stand alone – there is not room for another on the same pedestal – & there he sits in Newgate contenting himself for the loss of liberty by the confortable reflection “that the House Of Comm have no right to send him there” – I have often visited him since his confinement & I do most sincerely regard him as a very kind friend – but I am certain that he has no tact in politics – no more than I have to be a <Sta> Sculptor –

Let me have the pleasure of hearing from you immediately telling me of your health and Spirits and that you really meditate to oblige me with some Work for the Spring. let me know to of the Sundry domestic goods of wch you stand in need – that I may collect & send them to you –

What has become of the bust wch Torwalstein I think made of you & of wch M’ Hobhouse kindly promised me a cast – can you purchase & send me one – & I entreat you not to omit any very good occasion of letters wch have a ring & a seal – Cama o & intaglio – of your head

The Duke of Kent died at Sydmouth on Saturday last week after a Weeks illness from Cold – the King

2: B. gets back at Wilson in his Some Observations upon an Article in Blackwood’s Edinburgh Magazine No XXIV, August 1819, which was, however, not published during his lifetime.
3: The “Cato Street Conspiracy” has not occurred yet. It happens on February 23rd. Mu. never mentions it.
4: That is, H. puts principle before survival.
5: Sir Francis Burdett and H. will soon be fellow members for Westminster.
6: H.’s diary records one visit from Mu. (who is accompanied by Foscolo).
is not expected to live a fortnight – this on ye best Autority – Also a Revolution of a very important nature has taken place in Spain – & the Vile Ferdin and is I trust ever dethroned

[2:2 has the address]

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, February 7th 1820:
(Source: NLS Ms.43490; LJ IV 401; BLJ VII 34-5)
[To, /3* Murray Esq. / 50. Albemarle Street / London / Angleterre. / Inghilterra.]
Byron has yet to receive the previous item.

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, February 21st 1820:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43490; LJ IV 405-11; QII 499-503;BLJ VII 41-4)
Byron answers Murray’s of January 24th. Having said he will not describe Italian manners and morals, he then does so. One sentence ends in eleven dashes.

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7: The Morgante Maggiore translation is the first poem by B. since Hints from Horace that Murray does not publish.
I see the good old King is gone to his place\(^8\) – one can’t help being sorry – though blindness – and age and insanity are supposed {to be} drawbacks – on human felicity – but I am not at all sure that the latter [at least] – might not render him happier than any of his subjects. – – – – I have no thoughts of coming to the Coronation – though I should like to see it – and though I have a right to be a puppet in it – but my division with Lady Byron which has drawn an equinoctial line between me and mine in all other things – will operate in this also to prevent my being in the same procession. – – – – – – – – – By Saturday’s post – I sent you four packets containing Cantos third and fourth of D J –

1:2

recollect that these two cantos reckon only as one with you and me – being in fact the third Canto cut into two – because I found it too long. – Remember this – and don’t imagine that there could be any other motive. – – The whole is about 225 Stanzas more or less – and a lyric of 96 lines\(^9\) – so that they are no longer than the first single cantos – but the truth is – that I made the first too long – and should have cut those down also had I thought better. – – – – Instead of saying in future for so many cantos – say so many Stanzas or pages – it was Jacob Tonson’s way – and certainly the best – it prevents mistakes – I might have sent you a dozen cantos of 40 Stanzas each – those of “the Minstrel” (Beatties’s) are no longer – and ruined you at once – if you don’t suffer as it is; – but recollect you are not pinned down to anything you say in a letter – and that calculating even these two cantos as one only (which they were and are to be reckoned) you are not bound by your offer, – act as may seem fair to all parties – – – – I have

1:3

finished my translation of the first Canto of the “Morgante Maggiore” of Pulci – which I will transcribe and send – it is the parent not only of Whistlecraft – but of all jocose Italian poetry. – – You must print it side by side with the original Italian because I wish the reader to judge of the fidelity – it is stanza for stanza – and often line for line if not word for word. – – – – – – – – – You ask me for a volume of manners &\(^c\). – on Italy; perhaps I am in the case to know more of them than <any> {most} Englishmen – because I have lived among the natives – and in parts of the country – where Englishmen never resided before – (I speak of Romagna and this place particularly) but there are many reasons why I do not choose to touch {in print} on such a subject – I have lived in their houses and in the heart of their families – sometimes merely as “Amico di casa” and sometimes as “Amico di cuore” of the Dama – and in neither case do I feel myself authorized in making a book of them. – – – Their moral is not your moral – their life is not your life – you would not understand it –

1:4

it is not English nor French – nor German – which you would all understand; – the Conventual education – the Cavalier Servitude – the habits of thought and living are so entirely different – and the difference becomes so much more striking the more you live intimately with them – that I know not how to <describe> {make} you comprehend a people who are at once temperate and profligate – serious in their character and buffoons in their amusements – capable of impressions and passions which are at once sudden and durable (what you find in no other nation ) and who actually have no society (what we would call so) as you may see by their Comedies – they have no real comedy not even in Goldoni – and that is because they have no society to draw it from. – – – Their Conversazioni are not Society at all. – – They go to the theatre to talk – and into company to hold their tongues – the women sit in a circle and the men gather into groupes – or they play at dreary Faro – or “Lotto reale” – for small sums. – Their Academie are concerts like our own – with better music – and more form. – Their best things are the Carnival balls – – and masquerades – when every body

2:1

2.) runs mad for six weeks. – – After their dinners and suppers they make extempore verses – and buffoon one another – but it is in a humour which you would not enter into – ye of the North. – – In their houses it is better – I should know something of the matter – having had a pretty general experience among their women – from the fisherman’s wife – up to the <Balls of Romagna> {Nobil’

\(^8\): George III died on January 29th.
\(^9\): The Isles of Greece.
Donna} whom I serve. – – – – Their system has its rules – and its fitnesses – and decorums – so as
to be reduced to a kind of discipline – or game at hearts – which admits few deviations unless you wish
to lose it. – – – They are extremely tenacious – and jealous as furies – not permitting their lovers even
to marry if they can help it – and keeping them always close to them in public as in private whenever
they can. – – – In short they transfer marriage to adultery – and strike the not out of that
commandment. – The reason is that they marry for their parents and love for themselves. – They exact
fidelity [from a lover] as a debt of honour – while they pay the husband as a tradesman – that is not at
all. – – – You hear a person’s character – male or female – canvassed – not as depending on their conduct
to their husbands

or wives – but to their mistress or lover. – – – And – and – that’s all. – If I wrote a quarto – I don’t know
that I could do more than amplify what I have here noted. – – – It is to be observed that while they do all
this – the greatest outward respect is to be paid to the husbands – and not only by the ladies – but by
their Serventi – particularly if the husband serves no one himself (which is not often the case however)
so that you would often suppose them relations – the Servente making the figure of one adopted into
the family. – – – Sometimes the ladies run a little restive – and elope – or divide – or make a scene –
but this is at starting generally – when they know no better – or when they fall in love with a foreigner
– or some such anomaly – and is always reckoned unnecessary and extravagant. – – – – – –
You enquire after “Dante’s prophecy” – I have not done more than six hundred lines but will vaticinate
at leisure. – – – Of the Bust I know nothing – – no Cameos or Seals are to be cut here or elsewhere that
I know of in any good style. – Hobhouse should write himself to Thorwalden – the bust was made and
paid for

{three} years ago. – Pray tell M" Leigh to request Lady Byron – to urge forward the transfer from the
funds – which Hanson is opposing because he has views of investment for some Client of his own –
which I can’t consent to – I wrote to Lady B. on business this post addressed to the care of Mr. D.
Kinnaird. – – –
Somebody has sent me some American abuse of “Mazeppa” – and “the Ode” – in future I will
compliment nothing but Canada – and desert to the English. – – – – –
By the king’s death – M’. H I hear will stand for Westminster – I shall be glad to hear of his standing
any where except in the pillory – which from the company he must have {lately} kept (I always except
Burdett – and Douglas K – and the genteel Part of the reformers) was perhaps to be apprehended. I was
really glad to hear it was for libel instead of larceny for though impossible in his own person he might
have been taken up by mistake {for another} at a meeting. – – All reflections on his present case and
place are so }Nugatory} – that it would be useless to pursue the subject further. – – –
I am out of all patience to see my friends sacrifice themselves for a pack of blackguards – who disgust
one with their Cause – although I have always been

a friend {to} and a Voter for reform. – – – If Hunt had addressed the language to me – which he did to
M’. H. last election – I would not have descended to call out such a miscreant {who won’t fight} – but
have passed my sword=stick through his body – like a dog’s and then thrown myself on my Peers –
who would I hope – {have} weighed the provocation; – at any rate – it would have been as public a
Service as Walworth’s <pu> chastisement of Wat. Tyler. – If we must have a tyrant – let him at least be
a gentleman who has been bred to the business, and let <be> us fall by the axe and not by the butcher’s
cleaver. – – – –
No one can be more sick of – or indifferent to politics than I am – if they let me alone – but if the time
comes when a part must be taken one way or the other – I shall pause before I lend myself to the views
of such ruffians – although I cannot but approve of a Constitutional amelioration of long abuses. – – –
– –
– and <Gentlemen> {courteous deportment} – so is Hobhouse – but as for these others – I am

10: Peach figs. 49, 50 and 55.
convinced – that Robespierre was a Child – and Marat a quaker in comparison of what they would be could they throttle their way to power. – – – – [scrawl]

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**Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, February 28th 1820:**
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43490, no f.; BLJ VII 45-6)
[To, / 3rd Murray Esq. / 50. Albemarle Street. / London. / Angleterre / Inghilterra.]

The introductory stanza to Byron’s translation of Pulci’s *Morgante Maggiore*, about which Byron has told Murray.

ARGUMENT.

While Charlemagne, the Emperor is living
all his Paladins in feast and glee
With
the Paladins in festival and glee,
Orlando, ’gainst the traitor Gano giving
Way to his wrath, departs for Paganie,
And saves an Abbey, in a wild arriving,
All from the beastly rage of Giants three,
Slays two of them, and with Morgante ends
In goodly fellowship by making friends.

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Dear Murray –

When you publish the enclosed – it must be with the Italian text – as I wish it to be proved with the original – for good or no – Surely you will find a Pulci in London. – –

yours truly

Ravenna February 28th.
1820.

P.S.

Write an answer suddenly. I sent you last week the two Cantos of D.J. Respond – Show this translation to Frere and Rose – and Hobhouse. – – – –

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**Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, March 1st 1820:**
(Source: NLS Ms.43490; LJ IV 413; BLJ VII 47-9)
[To, 3rd Murray Esq. / 50. Albemarle Street. / London. / Angleterre. / Inghilterra.]

Ravenna. March 1st. 1820.

Dear Murray –

I sent you by last post the translation of the first Canto of the Morgante Maggiore – and the week before the 3rd. & 4th. Cantos of D.J. – In the translation I wish you to ask Rose about the word Sbergo” i.e. Usbergo which I have translated Cuirass11 – I suspect that it means both helmet also – now if so – which of the senses is best accordant with the text? – I have adopted Cuirass – but will be amenable to reasons. – Of The Natives some say one and some t’other, but they are no great Tuscans, in Romagna – however I will ask Sgricci (the famous Improvisatore) tomorrow – who is a native of Arezzo – The Countess Guiccioli – – who is reckoned a very cultivated young lady – and the dictionary – say Cuirass – I have written Cuirass – but helmet runs in my head nevertheless – and will run in verse very well whilk is the principal point. – –

1:2

I will ask the “Sposa Spina Spinelli’ too, the Florentine bride of Count Gabriel Rasponi just imported from Florence – and get the sense out of Somebody. – – – –

I have just been visiting the new Cardinal12 who arrived the day before yesterday in his legation – he seems a good old gentleman pious & simple – and not quite like his predecessor who was a bon vivant in the worldly sense of the words. – –

Enclosed is a letter which I received some time ago from Dallas. – It will explain itself – I have not answered it – – This comes of doing people good. – At one time or another – (including copy=rights) – this person has had about fourteen hundred pounds of my money – and he writes what he calls a

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11: Morgante Maggiore, 84, 5.
12: Cardinal Rusconi.
posthumous work about me—and a scruffy letter accusing me of treating him ill—when I never did any such thing. It is true—that I left off letter writing as I have done with almost every body else—but I can’t see how that was misusing him.

I look upon his epistle as the consequence of not sending him another hundred pounds—which he asked me to write to me—for about two years ago—and which I thought proper to withhold, he having had his share methought of what I could dispone upon others.

In your last you ask me after my articles of domestic wants—I believe they are as usual. The bulldogs—Magnesia—Soda powders—tooth=powder—brushes—and everything of the kind which are here unattainable.

You still ask me to return to England—Alas to what purpose? You do not know what you are requiring—return I must probably some day or other—if I live—sooner or later—but it will not be for pleasure—nor can it end in good.

As to spirits—they are unequal—now high now low—like other people’s I suppose—and depending upon circumstances.

Pray send me W. Scott’s new novels—what are their names and characters? I read some of his former ones at least once a day for an hour or so. The last are too hurried—he forgets Ravenswood’s name—and calls him Edgar—and then Norman—and Girder—the Cooper—is—styled now Gilbert and now John—and he don’t make enough of Montrose—but Dalgetty is excellent—and so is Lucy Ashton—and the bitch her mother.

What is Ivanhoe? and what do you call his other—are there two? Pray make him write at least two a year. I like no reading so well.

Don’t forget to answer forthwith—for I wish to hear of the arrival of the packets—viz.—the two Cantos of Donny Johnny—and the translation of Morgante Maggiore—or Major Morgan.

The Editor of the Bologna Telegraph has sent me a paper with extracts from Mr. Mulock’s (his name always reminds me of Muley Moloch of Morocco)”Atheism Answered” in which there is a long eulogium of my poesy—and a great “compatimento” for my misery. I never could understand what they mean by accusing me of irreligion—however they may have it their own way. This Gentleman seems to be my great admirer—so I take what he says in good part—as he evidently intends kindness—to which I can’t accuse myself of being insensible.

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, March 5th 1820:

(Source: NLS Ms.43490; LJ IV 416; BLJ VII 54)

13: In The Bride of Lammermoor; but Norman, and Edgar the Master of Ravenswood, are separate characters.

14: In The Bride of Lammermoor; in fact, “John” and “Gibbie” as well as “Gilbert”.

15: In A Legend of Montrose.

16: Both in The Bride of Lammermoor.

17: In Dryden’s Don Sebastian.

18: Thomas Mulock, Answer given by the Gospole to Atheism of all Ages (1819).
Dear Murray –

In case in your country you should not readily lay hands on the Morgante Maggiore – I send you the original text of the 1st. Canto to correspond with the translation which I sent you a few days ago. – It is from the Naples Edition in Quarto of 1732 – dated Florence however by a trick of the trade – which you as one of the Allied Sovereigns of the profession will perfectly understand without any further Spiegazione. – – It is strange that here nobody understands the real precise meaning of “Sbergo” or “Usbergo” – an old Tuscan word which I have rendered Cuirass <which> (but am not sure it is not Helmet)19 I have asked at least twenty people – learned and ignorant – male and female – including poets and officers civil and military. – The Dictionary says Cuirass – but gives no authority – and a female friend of mine says positively Cuirass – which makes me doubt the fact still more than before. – Ginguene says “bonnet de Fer” <but> with the usual superficial decision of a Frenchman – so that I can’t believe him – and what between The Dictionary – the Italian woman – and the Frenchman – there is no trusting to a word they say – The Context too which should decide admits of either meaning equally as you will perceive – Ask Rose – Hobhouse – Merivale – and Foscolo – and vote with the Majority – is Frere a good Tuscan? if he be bother him too – I have tried you see to be as accurate as I well could – this is my third or fourth letter or packet within the last twenty days –

[scrawl]

Murray to Byron, from 50, Albemarle Street, London, March 7th 1820:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43496; LJM 310-1)

My dear Lord (Hunt)

Your most kind and valuable packets, which have put fresh vigour, if not new life into me, arrived (4 in number) very safely half an hour ago. I am truly rejoiced in the receipt of them, these Cantos20 I shall announce instantly & publish fearlessly. My eyes have searced in vain for the pleasure of finding a Letter inclosed – but I shall look for this by the earliest post, in the mean time I shall send these two Cantos to the Printer. Probably you will tell me if we shall print the Translation from Pulci, with its facing Italian at the end of the Volume.21 With regard to what your Lordship says as to what was permitted in a Catholic & bigoted age to a Clergyman – I humbly conceive & am surprised that you do not perceive that – religion had nothing to do with it – It was Manners – and they have changed – A man might as well appear without Cloaths – and quote our Saxon Ancestors – The Comedies of Charles<s> Seconds days are not tolerated now – and even in my Own time I have gradually seen my favourite Love for Love absolutely pushed by public feeling – from the stage – it is not affectation of morality but the real

This would make a Volume of equal bulk with the former. The Prophecy is it compleated?

1:2

progress and result of refinement – and <we> {our minds} can no more undergo the moral & religious grossness of our predecessors that our bodies can sustain the heavy Armour which they wore –

19: “Usbergo” means “suit of chain mail”, not “helmet”. B. is at Morgante, I st.84, 5 (“ma solo un certo sbergo gli fu buono”, which he translates as “The whole, which, save one cuirass, was too small”, but which means “But only one particular cuirass suited him”).
20: DJ III and IV.
21: Mu. never publishes the Pulci. It appears in The Liberal No 4, on July 30th 1823.
Have you seen or heard of Don Juan – your Don Juan in Prose – well I have now before me "Œuvres de Lord Byron, traduites de L Anglais en VI Volumes"? Don Juan is the last of these – Canto for Canto – They are printing the Works in English in Brussells – in Germany &c – so take care what you <say> {write} – for All the World will know it – Shall I send yr Lordship the French Version as a Curiosity – & I wish you would review it.

Walter Scott after Ivanhoe – is again in the Field with the Monastery – whilst One half of the Empire is reading his Novels – the other half are seeing them Acted – His Daughter – a fine Girl with a great deal of Character is on the point of marriage with a M' Lockhart one of the Editors of Blackwoods Magazine wch I gave a Share – for wch I paid £1000 – on account of its Scurrility – Milman after the tediousness & bad Taste of Samor – has succeeded in writing a truly noble Dramatic Poem – a Tragedy – not for acting – – The Fall of Jerusalem

nothing that ever I received – except from yr Lordship ever fascinated me so much – – I took the MSS up to dinner – intending to thinking of nothing but what excuse I could make in rejecting it – opened one Page – & was riveted until 3 in the Morning – This would have been a fine Subject for you – but let me wait until I hear what you say of it.

No Magazine begins now – without a portrait of yr Lordship – & “a critique upon his writings” – I want to engrave my portrait of Margarita Cogni as the portrait of Donna Julia – may I – sans mot

I am about to send your Lordship a box of books P' Land wch will be addressed to M. Missiaglia – will you have the goodness to tell him this & give directions for forwarding them to your Lordship. I dined with Hobhouse – in Newgate & passed a pleasant day – Foscolo I took with me – The Election has commenced with the Editors all in perfect Apathy & he & George Lamb will float on like two pieces of straw on a dull Stream no one knowing wch may reach the border first. I am glad, really, that you did not happen to be in England, during our frustration – wch like the unpleasant expurgation above address: wch takes place in confined Thames Water – results only in its purification – if let alone – We have a noble Session – for the Genius which it elicited.

Hobhouse has never received from Thorwalstein either bust or Copy – Could your Lordship write to him – for I want one greatly – I have the portrait of your Lordships beautiful daughter Ada – wch I will convey by the first careful opportunity.

1:3

1:4 [above address:] Again I beg leave to thank your Lordship for the interesting MSS received this day – With unceasing regard

I ever remain your Lordships
faithfully devoted Servant

Jno Murray

22: The first edition of the translation by Amedée Pichot, the most important in nineteenth-century Europe.
23: G.H.Harlowe’s portrait of Margherita Cogni makes her look demure and chaste.
24: H.’s diary for Tuesday February 15th 1820 reads, “Murray and Foscolo dined with me. Rumour confirmed by them – and/but the former is very abusive of King George IV, which looks as if his rogues friends were going out – the Queen the cause, so they say.

Murray was entertaining – but told all the secrets of all his friends, and abused them partially one after the other. Foscolo had a gumboil and was almost silent. He made some very shrewd observations, however, about England. He mentioned as two singularities, one, that when a Ministry came in, all their friends, old and young, rich and poor, think themselves neglected if they have no places – e.g., old Wilbraham thought it hard Fox did not give him something. I answered that it was not the love of place so much as the fear of being thought a person whom it was not worth while to secure. He agreed. The other was that a miserable gentleman may debauch a farmer’s daughter with impunity – in Italy he would be stabbed. He knew two fine girls, sisters at Mousety so treated, and poxed by a wretch of a fellow, who came to live opposite the father’s house next year – and no-one spoke to him about it. Wilbraham made love to Lady Holland, when Lady Webster. She gave him a box on the ear, and his cheek rings with it now. Foscolo agreed with me that vanity is the great mover of many men. A monaco who lived with Foscolo in Pavia for two years affected great austerity – he had good clothes but never wore them; money, but never spent it; a watch, but hid it; wrote an answer to a criticism against him, but without his name; and when his books did not make the noise he wished, he cut his throat. Foscolo gave a singular picture of Will Spenser. Murray tells me that Thomas Hope actually wrote Anastasius – I do not believe it. It is evidently a translation. He has a Greek servant – I would sooner believe the servant wrote it.
25: Perhaps a reference to Cato Street.
Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, March 14th 1820:
(Source: NLS Ms.43490; LJ IV 418; BLJ VII 57)

[To, Jno. Murray Esqre. / 50. Albemarle Street. / London. / Angleterre. – / Inghilterra.]

Another single sheet, with an enormous address on side 2.

Ravenna. March 14th, 1820.

Dear Murray –

Enclosed is Dante’s Prophecy – – Vision – or what not – where I have left more than one reading – (which I have done often) you may adopt that which Gifford & Frere – Rose – and Hobhouse (is he still in Newgate?) and others of your Utican Senate think the best – or least bad – the preface will explain all that is explicable. – These are but the four first cantos – if approved I will go on like Isaiah. – – – – – –

Pray mind in printing – and let some good Italian Scholar correct the Italian quotations. – – – – – –

Four days ago I was overturned in <my> {an open} carriage between the river and a steep bank – wheels dashed to pieces – slight bruises – narrow escape – and all that – but no [Ms. tear: “harm”] done – though Coachman – footman – horses – and veh[Ms. tear: “icle”] were all mixed together like Maccaroni. – – – It [Ms. tear: “was owing”] to bad driving – as I say – but the Coachman swears to a start on the part of the horses – we went against a post – on the verge of a steep bank – and capsized. – – – I usually go out of the town in a carriage – and meet the saddle horses at the bridge – it was {in going there} {that} we boggled – but I got my ride as usual – after the accident. – – – – They say here it was all owing to St. Antonio of Padua (serious I assure you) who does thirteen miracles a day – that worse did not come of it; – I have no objection to this being his fourteenth in the four and twenty hours – he presides over overturns – and [all] escapes therefrom it seems; <and> {and} they dedicate pictures &c. to him as {the} Sailors {once} did to Neptune after “the high Roman fashion”

– – – – – –

Yours in haste [scrawl]

P.S.

Write directly. –

I have sent you Don Juan –

Translation of Morgante Maggiore –

and now Dante’s &c. acknowledge all. – – –

March 20th 1820: Byron translates Francesca of Rimini.

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, March 23rd 1820:
(Source: NLS Ms.43490; LJ IV 421; BLJ VII 59-60)

[To, Jno. Murray Esqre. / 50. Albemarle Street. / London. / Angleterre. – / Inghilterra.]

A single sheet. Byron answers Murray’s of March 7th, and encloses My Boy Hobby-O.

Ravenna. March 23rd, 1820.

Dear Murray – I have received y’. letter of the 7th. – Besides the 4 packets you have already received – I have sent the Pulci – a few days after – and since (a few days ago) the 4 first Cantos of Dante’s prophecy (the best thing I ever wrote if it be not unintelligible) and by last post a literal {translation} word for word (versed like the original) of the episode of Francesca of Rimini. – – I want to hear what you think of the new Juans, and the translations – and the Vision – they are all things that are or ought to be very different from one another. – – – If you choose to make a print from the Venetian you may – but she don’t correspond at all to the character you mean her to represent – on the contrary the Contessa G. does (except that She is remarkably fair) and is much prettier than the Fornarina – but I have no picture of her – except a miniature which is very ill done – and besides it would [Ms. tear: “not”] be proper on any account whatever to make such a [Ms. tear: “use”] of it – even if you had a copy. – – – – –

26: H. left Newgate on February 28th.
28: B. means “Prophecy”.
29: Mu. wants to use Harlowe’s picture of Margarita Cogni as Donna Julia in DJ I.
30: The comparative adjective remains indecipherable. T.G. was {fairer} and {shorter} than Margarita; but the erased word is neither. Could be “bonnier”, but if so it’s the only time B. uses that word.
Pray give Hobhouse the enclosed song\(^{31}\) – and tell him I know he will never forgive me – but I could not help it – I am so provoked with him and his ragamuffins for putting him in quo\(\text{d}\) – he will understand that <language> {word} – being now resident in the flash capital. – – – I am now foaming an answer (in prose) to the Blackwood Article of last August – you shall have it when done – it will set the kiln in a low. – – – Recollect that the two new Cantos only count with us – for one. – You may put the Pulci and Dante Together – perhaps that were best – so you have put your name to Juan – after all your panic and the row – you are a rare fellow. – – – I must now put myself in a passion to continue my prose.

yr[scrawl]

1:2 [below address:] I have caused write to Thorwalsen. – – –
Pray be careful in sending my daughter’s picture – I mean that it be not hurt in the carriage – for it is a <longish> journey rather long and jolting. – – –

**Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, March 28th 1820:**
(Source: NLS Ms.43490; LJ IV 425; BLJ VII 60)

[To, J\(^{10}\). Murray Esq\(^{10}\). / 50. Albemarle Street. / London. / Angleterre. – / Inghilterra.]

Yet another single sheet, with another enormous address on side 2.

Ravenna. March 28\(^{th}\). 1820.

D’ M’.

Inclosed is “a Screed of Doctrine for you”\(^{32}\) of which I will trouble you to acknowledge the receipt by next post. – M’. Hobhouse must have the correction of it – for the press, you may show it first to whom you please. – – –

I wish to know what became of my two epistles from S’. Paul (translated from the Armenian three years ago and more)\(^{33}\) and of the <qu> letter to Roberts of last autumn, which you never [Ms. tear: “have”] alluded to – There are two packets [Ms. tear: “with”] this –

yr[scrawl]

P.S. – I have some thoughts of publishing the “hints from Horace” written ten years ago – if Hobhouse can rummage them out of my papers left at his father’s – with some omissions and alterations previously {to be made} – when I <should> see the proofs. – – –

**Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, March 29th 1820:**
(Source: text from National Historical Museum, Athens, 19439; BLJ VII 60-2)

**Byron again answers Murray’s of March 7th.**

Ravenna. March 29\(^{th}\). 1820.

Dear Murray,

I sent you yesterday eight sheets of answer to Jack Wilson and the Edin. Mag. of last August. – Herewith you will receive <some> {a} notes (enclosed) on Pope\(^{34}\) which you will find tally with a part of the text {of last Post}. – – – I have at last lost all patience with the atrocious cant and nonsense about Pope, with which our present blackguards are overflowing, and am determined to make such head against it, as an Individual can by prose or verse – and I will [at] least do it with good will. – – There is no bearing it any longer, and if it goes on, it will destroy what little good writing or taste remains amongst us. – – – I hope there are still a few <of> men of <G> taste to second me, but if not, I’ll battle it alone – convinced that it is in the best cause of English Literature. – – –

I have sent you so many packets verse and prose lately, that you will be tired of the postage if not of the perusal. – – – I want to answer some parts of your last letter –

1:2

but I have not time, for I must “boot and saddle” as my Captain Craigengail\(^{35}\) (an officer of the old Napoleon [Italian] army) is in waiting, and my Groom and cattle to boot. – – –

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31: *My Boy Hobby-O*. If B. was a real friend, he would have sent it to Hobhouse via Kinnaird.
32: *Some Observations upon an Article in Blackwood’s Edinburgh Magazine, August 1819*. Mu. does not publish this.
33: As with MM and HH, Mu. does not publish these either.
34: This is a draft of the *Letter to John Murray Esquire*, which Mu. does publish.
35: From *The Bride of Lammermoor*. 
You have given me a screed of Metaphor and what not about Pulci – & manners, “and going without clothes like our Saxon ancestors” now the Saxons did not go without clothes, and in the next place they are not my ancestors, nor yours either, for mine are more Normans, and yours I take it by your name – were Gael. – – And in the next I differ from you about the “refinement” which has banished the comedies of Congreve – – are not the Comedies of Sheridan acted to the thinnest houses? – I know (as ex-Committed) that “the School for Scandal was the worst Stock piece upon record. I also know that Congreve gave up writing because Mrs. Centilivre’s balderdash drove his comedies off – so it is not decency but Stupidity that does all this – for Sheridan is as decent a writer as need be – and Congreve no worse than

1:3

Mrs. Centilivre – of whom Wilkes (the Actor) said – <She would> “not only her play would be damned but She too” – he alluded to a “Bold Stroke for a Wife”. – – –

But last and most to the purpose – Pulci is not an indecent writer – at least in his first Canto as you will have perceived by this time. – – – –

You talk of refinement, are you [all] more moral? are you so moral? – No such thing. – I know what the world is in England by my own proper experience – of the best of it – at least – {of} the loftiest. – And I have described it every where as it is to be found in all places. – But to return – I should like to see the proof of mine Answer – because there will be something to omit or to alter – but pray let it be carefully printed – – – When convenient let me have an answer – – – y

[scrawl]

April 4th-July 16th 1820: Byron writes Marino Faliero.

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, April 9th 1820:
(Source: NLS Ms.43490; LJ V 5; BLJ VII 73-4)
[To, J[no] Murray Esq. / 50. Albemarle Street / London / Angleterre, / Inghilterra.]
Ravenna. – April 9th, 1820

D[']. S[']. – In the name of all the devils in —— the printing office – why don’t you write to acknowledge the receipt of the second – third – and fourth packets, viz. the Pulci – translation & original – the <Dante> Danticles – the Observations on &<c>. – –

you forget that you keep me in hot water till I know whether they are arrived – or, if I must have the bore of recopying. – – –

I send you “a Song of Triumph” by W. Botherby Esq<e>. price sixpence – on the Election of J.C.H. Esq<e>. for Westminster – (not for publication) – –

Would you go to the House by the true gate
Much faster than ever Whig Charley went.
Let the Parliament send you to Newgate,
And Newgate will send you to Parliament.36

Have you gotten the cream of translations – Francesca of Rimini – from the Inferno? – why I have sent you a warehouse of trash

1:2

within the last month – and you have no sort of feeling about you – a pastry=cook would have had twice the gratitude – and thanked me at least for the Quantity. – – – –

To make the letter heavier I enclose you the Cardinal Legate’s – our Campeius)37 circular for his Conversazione this evening – it is the anniversary of the Pope’s tiara=tion, and all polite Christians – even of the Lutheran creed – must go and be civil. – – And there will be a Circle – and a Faro table – (for shillings that is – they don’t allow high play) and all the beauty – nobility, and Sanctity of Ravenna {present;} the Cardinal himself is a very good natured little fellow – Bishop of Imola – and Legate here

36: The idea for this song is stolen from H.’s letter of January 18th: in these times, and I assure you they get more troublesome for constables & all every day, it is an even chance that a popular candidate may step from a prison to the hustings or from the hustings to prison just as happens …

37: Campeius is a cardinal in Shakespeare’s Henry VIII.
– a devout believer in all the doctrines of the Church – he has kept his housekeeper these forty years
– for his carnal recreation – but is reckoned a pious man – and a moral liver. – – – –
I am not quite sure that I won’t be among you this autumn – for – I find that business don’t go on –
what with trustees and Lawyers

1:3

as it should do with all deliberate speed. – They differ about investments in Ireland –
Between the devil and deep Sea
Between the Lawyer and Trustee
I am puzzled – and so much time is lost by my not being upon the spot – what with answers – demurs,
rejoiners – that it may be I must come and look to it. – For one says do – and t’other don’t – so that I
know not which way to turn. – – But perhaps they can manage without me. – – – –
yrs. ever [scrawl]

Address
direct to Ravenna – it
saves a week’s time – & much
postage.

P.S. 38
I have begun a tragedy on
the subject of Marino Faliero,
The Doge of Venice, but
you shan’t see it these six years
if you don’t acknowledge my packets
<and letters> with more quickness and
precision. – Always write if but a line
by return of post – when anything arrives which is not a mere letter.

**Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, April 11th 1820:**
(Source: NLS Ms.43490; LJ V 7; BLJ VII 74)
[To, Jno Murray Esq*. / 50. Albemarle Street / London / Angleterre. / Inghilterra.]
Ravenna. April 11th, 1820.

Dear Murray,
Pray forward the enclosed letter39 to a fiddler. – – In Italy they are called “Professors of the
Violin” – you should establish one at each of the universities.
y[long scrawl]

P.S.
Pray forward it carefully with a frank – it is from a poor fellow to his musical Uncle <who> of
whom nothing has been heard these three years (though what he can have been doing at Belfast
best knows) so that they are afraid of some mischief having <beft> befallen him or his fiddle. – – ——
– –

**Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, April 16th 1820:**
(Source: NLS Ms.43490; LJ V 8; BLJ VII 76-7)
[To, Jno. Murray Esq*. / 50. Albemarle Street / London / Angleterre. / Inghilterra.]
Ravenna. April 16th, 1820.

Dear Murray –
Post after post arrives without bringing any acknowledgement from you of the different
packets (excepting the <two> first) which I have sent within the last two months – all of which ought to
be arrived long ere now – & as they were announced in other letters – you ought at least to say whether
they are come or not. – – You are not expected to write frequent or long letters – as your time is much
occupied – but when parcels that have <taken> cost some pains in the composition, & great trouble in

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38: B. could write the P.S. across the page, but he wants to finish at the bottom of this side, and so writes in half-lines.
39: Enclosed letter untraced.
the copying are sent to you. I should at least be put out of suspense by the immediate acknowledgement
per return of post addressed directly to Ravenna. – –
I am naturally – knowing what continental posts are – anxious to hear that they are arrived
especially as I loathe the task of copying so much – that if there was a human being that could copy my
blotted M.S.S. – he should have all they can ever bring for his trouble. – – –

1:2

All I desire is two lines to say – such a day I received such a packet – there are now at least six
unacknowledged. – – –
This is neither kind nor courteous. 40 – – –
I have besides another reason for desiring you to be speedy – which is – that there is that brewing in
Italy – which will speedily cut off all security of communication and set all your Anglo-travellers
flying in every direction with their usual fortitude in foreign tumults. – The Spanish & French affairs
have set the Italians in a ferment – and no wonder – they have been too long trampled on. – –

This will make a sad scene for your exquisite traveller – but not for the resident – who naturally wishes a people
to redress itself. – I shall [if permitted by the natives] remain to see what will come of it – and perhaps
take a turn with them – like Dugald Dalgetty and his horse41 – in case of business – for I
[shall] think it <best> by far the most interesting spectacle and moment in

1:3

existence – to see the Italians <set> the Barbarians of all nations back to their own dens. – –
I have lived long enough among them – to feel more for them as a nation than for any other people in
existence – but they want Union – and they want principle – and I doubt their success – however they
will try probably – and if they do – It will be a good <dec[ ]> cause – <to> no Italian can hate an
Austrian more than I do – unless it be the English – (the Austrians) seem to me the most
obnoxious race under the Sky. – – – – –
But I doubt – if anything be done – it won’t be so quietly as in Spain; – to be sure Revolutions are not
to be made with Rose-water – where there are foreigners as Masters. – –
Write while <the> you can – for it is but the toss up of a <Baxx> Paul – that there <will or not> will
not be a row that will somewhat retard the Mail, by and bye.

Address right to Ravenna.

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, April 23rd 1820:
(Source: NLS Ms.43490; LJ V 16; BLJ VII 82-5)
[No address.]

Byron answers a Murray letter which is missing, in which Murray expresses doubts about Don
Juan III and IV and the Morgante Maggiore.

Ravenna. April 23rd 1820.

Dear Murray –

The proofs don’t contain the last stanzas of Canto second – but end shortly after the 105th.
Stanza. – – –

I told you long ago – that the new Cantos were not good – and I also told you <the> reason –
recollect I do not oblige you to publish them, you may suppress them if you like – but I can alter
nothing – I have erased the six stanzas about those two impostors Southey and Wordsworth42 – (which
I suppose will give you great pleasure) but I can do no more – I can neither recast – nor replace – but I
give you leave to put it all in the fire if you like – or not to publish – and I think that’s sufficient; – –
I told you that I wrote on with no good will – that I had been not frightened but hurt – by the outcry –
and besides that, when I wrote <them> last November – I was ill in body and in very great distress of
mind about some private things of my own – but you would have it – so I sent it to you – & to make it
lighter cut it in two – but I can’t piece it together again –

1:2

40: Mu.’s delay is perhaps caused by his unwillingness to publish, for example, the Morgante Maggiore.
41: In Scott’s A Legend of Montrose.
42: DJ III sts.93-5 and 98-100.
I can’t cobble; I <will> {must} “either make a spoon or spoil a horn”, and there is an end – for there is no remeid; but I leave you free will to suppress the whole if you like it. – –

About the Morgante {Maggiore} – I wont have a line omitted – it may circulate or it may not – but all the Criticism on earth shan’t touch a line – unless it be because it is badly translated – – now you say – – and I say – and others say – that the translation is a good one – and so it shall go to press as it is. – – Pulci must answer for his own irreligion – I answer for the translation only. - - - -

I am glad you have got the Dante – and there should be by this time a translation of {his} Francesca of Rimini arrived – to append to it. - - - -

I sent you a quantity of prose observations in answer to Wilson43 – But I shall not publish them at present – keep them by you – as documents. - - - -

Pray let Mr. Hobhouse look to the Italian next time in the proofs; – this time while I am scribbling to you – they are corrected by one who passes for the prettiest woman in Romagna

1:3

and {even} the Marches as far as <Anch> Ancona – be the other who she may. - - - -

I am glad you like my answer to your enquiries about Italian Society – it is fit you should like something and be damned to you. - - - - - -

My love to Scott – I shall think higher of knighthood ever after for his being dubbed – by the way – he is the first poet titled for his talent – in Britain – it has happened abroad before <d> now – but <there the> {on the continent} titles are universal & worthless. - - - - Why don’t you send me Ivanhoe & the Monastery? - - - -

I have never written to Sir Walter – for I know he has a thousand things & I a thousand nothings to do – But I hope to see him at Abbotsford before very long, and I will sweat his Claret for him – though Italian abstemiousness has made my brain but a skilpit concern for a Scotch sitting “inter pocula”. - - - - I love Scott and Moore – and all the better brethren – but I hate & abhor that <lake> puddle of water=worms – whom you have <unde> taken into your troop in the history line I see. - - - -

1:4

I am obliged to end abruptly.

yrs [scrawl]

P.S. –

You say that one half is very good, you are wrong – – for if it were it would be the finest poem in existence – where is the poetry of which one half is good – is it the Æneid? is it Milton’s, is it Dryden’s – is it anyone’s except Pope’s and Goldsmith’s; of which all is good – & yet these two last are the poets – your pond poets would explode, –

But if one half of the two new Cantos be good in your opinion – what the devil would you have more? – no – no – no poetry is generally good – only by fits & starts – & you are lucky to get a sparkle here & there – you might as well want a Midnight – all stars – as rhyme all perfect – - - -

We are on the verge of a row here – last night they have overwritten all the city walls – with “up With the Republic & death to the pope &”. &.” this would be nothing in London where the walls are privileged – & where when Somebody went to Chancellor Thurlow to tell him {as an alarming sign} that he had seen “Death to the king” on <Hyde> the park wall – – old Thurlow asked him if he had ever seen “C—t” <on the> {chalked on the} same <wall> {place}, to which the alarmist responding in the affirmative – Thurlow resumed “& so have I for these last 30 years and yet it never made my p — k stand.” – - - -

But here it is a different thing they are not used to such fierce {political} inscriptions – and the police is all on the alert, and the Cardinal {glares} pale through all his purple. [three wavy lines]

2:1

April 24th, 1820.

8 o’clock P.M.

43: Some Observations upon an Article in Blackwood’s Edinburgh Magazine, August 1819; not published in B.’s lifetime.
The police have been all <nt/>Noon and after searching for the Inscribers – but have caught none as yet – they must have been all night about it – for the “Live republics – death to popes & priests” are innumerable – and plastered over all the palaces – ours has plenty. – – –

There is “down with the Nobility” too – they are down enough already for that matter. – – – A {very} heavy rain & wind having come on – I <coul> did not get on horseback to go out & <ce> “skirr the country” but I shall mount tomorrow & take a canter among the peasantry – who are a savage resolute race – always riding with guns in their hands. – – – I wonder they don’t suspect the Serenaders – for they play on the guitar all night here as in Spain – to their <m/>Mistresses. 

2:2

Talking of politics as Caleb Quotem46 says – pray look at the Conclusion of my <o/>Ode on Waterloo, written in the year 1815 – & comparing it with the Duke de Berri’s catastrophe in 1820. – tell me if I have not as good a right to the character of “Vates” in both senses of the word as Fitzgerald & Coleridge.

“Crimson tears will follow yet.”47

and have not they? – – –

I can’t pretend to foresee what will happen among you Englishers at this distance – but I vaticinate a row in Italy – & in which case I don’t know that I won’t have a finger in it. – I dislike the Austrians – and think the Italians infamously oppressed, & if they begin – why I will recommend “the erection of a Sconce upon Drumsnab” like Dugald Dalgetty.48

Murray to Byron, from 50, Albemarle Street, London, April 28th 1820:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43496; LJM 314)

Murray answers Byron’s of April 9th.

My Lord

One of my letters must have miscarried – I have received safely all your interesting packets – Pulci – Rimini – Blackwood – the whole of wch is <nt/> this day set up in Types & will be sent to M Hobhouse for his correction – Dante is very grand and worthy of you – & Pulci excellent – Rimini not so much admired & there are marks of hase in the repetition of the same word – Foscolo – Milman Gifford & Hallam are the critics in these cases

<The Lett> These Poems are not for the Million & we must not expect them to be popular – The Letter on Blackwoods Magazine is very curious & interesting – & must make a noise – I am sorry however that you that you touch upon the idle talk about Incest – & it is not well to let the world know – as a quoteable thing – your having had both those Ladies.49 Pray absorb all your faculties in the Tragedy – & you will do the greatest thing you have affected yet and again confound the world – who are all

44: Shakespeare, Macbeth, V iii 35.
45: B. writes “mistress”, then changes it to “Mistresses”.
46: From The Review, or the Wags of Windsor, by George Colman the Younger.
47: B.’s Ode from the French, last line.
48: “… while they were returning to the castle, he [Dalgetty] failed not to warn Sir Duncan Campbell against the great injury he might sustain by any sudden onfall of an enemy, whereby his horses, cattle, and granaries, might be cut off and consumed, to his great prejudice; wherefore he again strongly conjured him to construct a sconce upon the round hill called Drumsnab, and offered his own friendly services in lining out the same. To this disinterested advice Sir Duncan only replied by ushering his guest to his apartment, and informing him that the tolling of the castle bell would make him aware when dinner was ready” – Scott, A Legend of Montrose, Chap. 10.
49: From Observations: One of “these lofty minded and virtuous men”, in the words of the Edinburgh Magazine, made, I understand, about this time or soon after, a tour in Switzerland. On his return to England, he circulated, and for anything I know invented, a report – that the gentleman to whom I have alluded and myself were living in promiscuous intercourse with two sisters, “having formed a League of Incest” (I quote the words as they were stated to me), and indulged himself in the natural comments upon such a conjunction – which are said to have been repeated publicly with great complacency by another of that poetical fraternity, of whom I shall say only that even had the story been true he should not have repeated it as far as it regarded myself – except in sorrow. The tale itself requires but a word in answer – the ladies were not sisters – nor in any degree connected except by the second marriage of their respective parents – a widower with a widow – both being the offspring of former marriages. Neither of them were, in 1816, nineteen years old. “Promiscuous intercourse” could hardly have disgusted the great patron of Pantisocracy (does Mr Southey remember such a scheme?), but there was none.
most anxious that you should do this –
We admire your powerful & acute defence of Pope –
I am in haste for post
My Lord

Most truly yr
Jno Murray

[1:3 blank.]

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, May 8th 1820:
(Source: NLS Ms.43490; LJ V 20; BLJ VII 96-9)
[To, Jno. Murray Esq. 50. Albemarle Street. / 50. Albemarle Street. 50 / London / Angleterre. / Inghilterra.]

Byron has yet to receive the previous item.

Ravenna. May 8\textsuperscript{th} 1820.

Dear Murray –

From yr. not having written again, an \{intention\} which yr. letter of yr. 7\textsuperscript{th} Ulto. indicated, I have to presume that “the Prophecy of Dante” has not been found more worthy than it’s \{immediate\} precursors in the eyes of your illustrious Synod – in that case you will be in some perplexity – to end which – I repeat to you that you are not to consider yourself as bound – or pledged to \{publish\} any thing, because it is mine, but \{always\} to act according to your own views – or opinions – or those of your friends; \& to be sure that you will in no degree offend me “by declining the article” to use a technical phrase. – The \textit{Prose} observations on J\textsuperscript{th} & Wilson’s attack – I do not intend for publication at this time – and I sent a copy of verses to M’. Kinnaird (they were written last year – on crossing the Po) which must \textit{not} be published either; \& I mention this because it is probable he

may give you a copy – \{pray\} recollect this – as they are mere verses of Society – \& written upon private feelings \& passions. – And moreover I cannot consent to any mutilations or omissions of \textit{Pulci} – the original has been ever free from such in Italy – the \textit{Chio} Capital of Christianity – and the translation may be so in England – though you will think it strange that they should have allowed such \textit{freedom} for so many centuries to the Morgante – while the other day – they confiscated the whole translation of the 4\textsuperscript{th} Canto of Child\textsuperscript{e}. Ha\textsuperscript{d}. \& have persecuted Leoni the translator – so he writes me – \& so I could have told him – had he \textit{listened to} \{consulted\} me – before his publication. – This shows how much more politics interest men in these parts – \texttt{<thxx/>} than religion. – Half a dozen invectives against tyranny confiscate C\textsuperscript{ith}. H\textsuperscript{ith}. \{in a month\} \& eight \& twenty cantos of quizzing Monks \& Knights

\texttt{1:3}

\& Church Government – are let loose for centuries. I copy Leoni’s account. \<of it>.

\texttt{“Non ignorerà forse che la mia versione del 4\textsuperscript{th} Canto del Childe Harold fu confiscata in ogni parte: ed io stesso ho dovuto soffrire vessazioni altrettanto ridicole quanto illiberali; ad onta che alcuni versi fossero esclusi dalla censura. Ma siccome il divieto non fa d’ordinario che accrescere la curiosità così quel carme sull’ Italia e ricercato piu che mai, e penso di farlo ristampare in Inghilterra senza nulla escludere. – Sciagurata condizione di questa mia patria! se patria si può chiamare una terra così avvilita dalla fortuna, dagli uomini, da sè medesima,\textsuperscript{51} – – –

\texttt{50} B. writes “50. Albemarle Street” twice.

\texttt{51}: “You will perhaps not be unaware that my version of the 4th Canto of Childe Harold has been confiscated everywhere; and I myself have been obliged to suffer vexations both ridiculous and illiberal in spite of the fact that some lines were excluded by the censor. But as all prohibition usually does is to increase curiosity, so that poem on Italy is more sought after than ever, and I am thinking of having it reprinted in England without excluding anything. – Wretched condition of this nation of mine! If one can call a nation a land so debased by fortune, by men, by its very own self.”
This last intended piece of publication – I shall dissuade him from – or he may chance to see the inside of St. Angelo’s. – The last Sentence of his letter – is the common & pathetic sentiment of all his Countrymen – who execrate Castlereagh as the cause by the conduct of the English at Genoa. – Surely that man will not die in his bed, there is no spot of the earth where his name is not a hissing and a curse. – Imagine what must be the man’s talent for Odium [when he] [who] has contrived to spread his infamy like a pestilence from Ireland to Italy – and [to make his name an execration] in all languages.

Talking of Ireland – Sir Humphrey Davy was here last fortnight – and [in company] [with] [in the house of] a very pretty Italian Lady of rank52 – [who] by way of displaying her learning [she] in presence of the great Chemist [who was] then describing his fourteenth ascension of Mount Vesuvius – [She] asked “if there was not a similar Volcano in Ireland?” – My only notion of an Irish Volcano consisted of the Lake of Killarney which I naturally conceived her to mean – but on second thoughts I divined that she alluded to Iceland & to Hecla – and so it proved – though she sustained her volcanic topography for some time with [all] the amiable pertinacity of “the Feminie.” She soon after turned to me and asked me various questions about Sir Humphrey’s philosophy – and [his] I explained as well as an Oracle – his skill in gases – safety lamps – & in ungluing the Pompeian M.S.S. – “but what do you call him?” said she “a great Chemist” quoth I – [he] what can he do?” [repli] repeated the lady – almost any thing said I – – Oh then mio Caro – do pray beg him to give me something to dye my eyebrows black – I have tried a thousand things and the [colours] all come off & besides they don’t grow – can’t he [invent something] to make them grow?” – All this with the greatest earnestness – and what you will be surprized at – She is neither ignorant nor a fool, but really well educated & clever but [Ms. tear: “they speak”] like Children – when first out of [Ms. tear: “their”] convents – [and after all this is better than an English blue=stocking]. – I did not tell Sir Humphry of this last piece of philosophy – not knowing how he might take it; – He is gone on towards England. – Sotheby has sent him a poem on his undoing the M.S.S. which Sir H. says is a bad one. – Who the devil doubts it? – Davy was much taken with Ravenna – & the primitive Italianism of the people who are unused to foreigners but he only staid a day. – – Send me Scott’s novels – & some news. [scrawl]

2:2 [above address:] P.S. – I have begun and advanced into the second Act of a tragedy on the subject of The Doge’s Conspiracy – (i.e. the story of Marino Falieri) but my [present feeling] [present feeling] is so little encouraging on such matters – that I begin to think I have mined my talent out – & proceed in no great phantasy of finding a new vein. – – – – – –

[between address, inverted:] P.S. I sometimes think (if the Italians don’t rise) of coming over to England in the Autumn after the coronation (at which I would not appear on account of my family Schism with “the femenie”) but as yet I can decide nothing; – the place must be a great deal changed since I left it now more than four years ago.

[parallel to address:] May 9th, 1820. Address directly to Ravenna. –

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, May 20th 1820 (a):
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43490; LJ V 25-6; BLJ VII 101-2)

Ravenna. May 20th. 1820.

52: Teresa Guiccioli.
Murray my dear – make my respects to Thom’ Campbell – & tell him from me with faith & friendship three things that he must right in his Poets. – Firstly – he says Anstey’s Bath Guide Characters are taken from Smollett – tis impossible – the Guide was published in 1766 and Humphrey Clinker in 1771 – duunque – tis Smollett who has taken from Anstey. Secondly – he does not know to whom Cowper alludes when he says that there was one who “built a church to God and then blasphemed his name” – it was “Deo erexit Voltaire” to whom that maniacal Calvinist & coddle coddled poet alludes. – – – –

Thirdly – he misquotes & spoils a passage from Shakespeare – “to gild refined gold

1:2
to paint the lily & c.” – for lily he puts <the> rose and bedevils in more words than one the whole quotation. – –

Now Tom is a fine fellow but he should be correct – for the 1st. is an injustice (to Anstey –) the 2nd. an ignorance – and the third a blunder – tell him all this – and let him take it in good part – for I might have rammed it into a review & vexed him – instead of which I act like a Christian.

[very big scrawl]

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, May 20th 1820 (b):
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43490; LJ V 26-7; BLJ VII 102-3)

Ravenna. May 20th. 1820.

Dear Murray – First and foremost you must forward my letter to Moore dated 2d. January – which I said you might open – but desired you to forward – now – you should really not forget these little things because they do mischief among friends; – you are an excellent man – a great man – & live among great men – but do pray recollect your absent friends – and authors. – – – I return you the packets – the prose (the Edin. Mag. {answer}) looks better than I thought it would – & you may publish it – there will be a row – but I’ll fight it out – one way or <the other> {another}. – You are wrong – I never had those “two ladies” – upon my honour! never believe but half of such stories. – Southey was a damned scoundrel to spread such a lie of a woman whose mother he did his best to get – & could not. 53 – So – you & Hobhouse have squabbled about my ballad – you should not have circulated it – but I am glad you are by the ears, you both deserve it – he for <being> {having been} in Newgate – & you for not being there – Excuse haste – if you knew what I have on hand, you would . – –

In the first place – – your packets – then a letter from Kinnaird on the most urgent business – another from Moore about a <letter> communication to Lady B of importance – a fourth from the mother of Allegra – and fifthly at Ravenna – the Contessa G. is on the eve of being divorced on account of our having been taken <almost> {together quasi} in the fact – & what is worse that she did not deny it – but the Italian public are on our side

1:2

particularly the women – and the men <too> {also} – because they say – {that} he had no business to take the business up now after a year of toleration. – – –

The law is against him – because he slept with his wife after her admission – all her relatives (who are numerous {high in rank} & powerful) are furious against him – for his conduct – & his not wishing to be cuckolded at threescore – when every else is at one. – – I am warned to be on my guard as he is very capable of employing “Sicarii” 54 – <it> {this} is Latin – as well as Italian – so you can understand it – but I have arms – and don’t mind them – thinking that I can pepper his ragamuffins 55 – if they {don’t} come unawares – & that if they do – one may as well end that way as another – and it would besides serve you as an advertisement. – – –

“Man may escape from rope or Gun” &c.
But he who takes Woman – Woman – Woman” &c. 56

[yrs.]

[scrawl]

53: Mary Wollstonecraft, mother of Mary Godwin. Southey had “admired” her.
54: Assassins.
55: Shakespeare, Henry IV I v iii 35 (“I have led my ragamuffins where they are peppered”).
56: The Beggar’s Opera, II viii: Man may escape from Rope and Gun; / Nay, some have outliv’d the Doctor’s Pill; / Who takes a Woman must be undone, / That Basilisk is sure to kill.
P.S.
– I have looked over the press – but Heaven knows how – think what I have on hand – & the post going out tomorrow –

[vertically up right-hand side:] Do you remember the epitaph on Voltaire?

Cy git l’enfant gaté &c.

“Here lies the spoilt Child
Of the World which he spoil’d

The original is in Grimm & Diderot &c. &c. &c.

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, June 7th 1820:
(Source: NLS Ms.43490; LJ V 36; BLJ VII 113-14)
[To, Jno. Murray Esq. / 50. Albemarle Street. / London / Angleterre. / Inghilterra.]
A single sheet. The P.S. responds to a Murray letter which is missing.

Ravenna. June 7th, 1820

Dear Murray,
– Enclosed in something which will interest you – (to wit) the opinion of the Greatest man of Germany – perhaps of Europe – upon one of the great men of your advertisements – (all “famous hands” as Jacob Tonson used to say of his raganuffins) in short – a critique of Goethe’s upon Manfred.

Manfred.

There is the original – Mr. Hoppner’s translation, and an Italian one – keep them all in your archives – for the opinions of such a man as Goethe whether favourable or not are always interesting – and this is moreover favourable. – His Faust I never read – for I don’t know German – but Matthew Monk Lewis [in 1816 at Coligny] translated most of it to me viva voce – & I was naturally [much] struck with it; – but it was the Staubach & the Jungfrau – and something else – much more than Faustus that made me write Manfred. – – The first Scene however & that of Faustus are very similar. – – Acknowledge this letter

yours, ever [scrawl]

1:2 [above address:] P.S. – I have received Ivanhoe; – good. – Pray send me some tooth powder & tincture of Myrrh. – by Waite &c. – Ricciardetto should have been translated literally or not at all. – As to puffing Whistlecraft – it won’t do – I’ll tell you why some day or other. – – – –
Cornwall’s a poet – but Spoilt by the detestable Schools of the day. – M’s. Hemans is a poet also – but too [below address:] stiltified, & apostrophic – & quite wrong. – men died calmly before the Christian æra – & since without Christianity – witness – the Romans – & lately Thistlewood – Sandt – & Louvel – men who ought to have been weighed down with their crimes57 – even had they believed. – – A deathbed is a matter of nerves & constitution – & not of religion; – Voltaire was frightened – Frederick of Prussia not. – Christians the same according to their strength [text turns through ninety degrees and travels up right-hand side:] rather than their creed. – – [parallel to address:] What does Helga Herbert mean by his Stanza? which is octave got drunk [seal covers text: “or gone”] mad. – He ought to [seal covers text: “have”] his ears boxed with Thor’s hammer, for rhyming so fantastically – – – –

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, June 8th 1820:
(Source: NLS Ms.43490; LJ V 40; BLJ VII 114)
[To, Jno. Murray Esq. / 50. Albemarle Street. / London / Angleterre. / Inghilterra.]
A single sheet, written the day after the previous item. No Murray letters have been found since the one of April 28th.

Ravenna. June 8th, 1820.

Dear Murray –
It is intimated to me that there is some demur & backwardness on your part to make propositions with regard to the M.S.S. transmitted to you at your own request. – How or why this should occur when you were in no respect limited to any terms – I know not – & do not <much> care – contenting myself with repeating that the two cantos of Juan were to reckon as one (only) – & that even in that case you are not to consider yourself as bound by your former proposition – particularly – as your people may have a bad opinion of the production – the which I am by no means prepared to dispute. – – – –

57: Arthur Thistlewood, would-be leader of the “Cato Street Conspiracy”, was arrested before he could commit his crime, which, since the ministers were not at dinner, he couldn’t have committed anyway. Sandt assassinated Kotzebue, and Louvel the duc de Berri.
With regard to the other M.S.S. (the prose will not be published in any case) I named nothing – & left the matter to you and to my friends. – If you are the least shy – (I do not say you are wrong) you can put the {whole of the} M.S.S. in M'. Hobhouse’s hands – & – there the matter ends – your declining to publish will not <have> {be} any offence <to me> to me. yrs. in haste [scrawl]

Murray to Byron, from 50, Albemarle Street, London, June 13th 1820:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43496; LJM 319-20)

My Lord

I have delayed writing until I thought that you would have heard from M' Hobhouse & M' Kinnaird their opinions as to the propriety of publishing any of the poems and prose wc we have lately received – I saw M' Hobhouse a day or two since and he perfectly agrees with me in recommending delay. Let us wait until you send me something – better than any thing you have yet written, for this however arduous to effect & impertinent to ask, is indispensable in order to produce that sensation which has hitherto attended the publication of your works – I am confident that the Tragedy upon which you are now occupied will excite all your mind – let us put forth some thing of this Calibre <now> first & the other poems may follow – Upon my soul I never felt more at a loss to express myself – We all think Canto III by no means equal to the two first – Pulci very admirably executed as it is possible – but we con

vinced that it will not be <liked> popular in England – Blackwood is not worth your notice – wch would be sure to raise the reputation of his Magazine – for wc I have withdrawn on account of its shameful personality – All that your Lordship says about Pope – is excellent indeed & I wish you could be induced to enlarge it & I would print it with any thing else in the Shape of Notes that you would make for me in an Edition of Papes Poetical Works wc I am very anxious to rescue from M' Bowles – The Dante is very good but perhaps not of sufficient importance for separate publication – But after venturing to obtrude my opinion I trust that you will do me the favour to understand that it is given with the utmost deference to your own – and most particularly as to the busi <siness> nes part of it I will subscribe to any thing that your Lordship may think proper to propose

I have heard that M' Moores new poems Rhymes on the Road” after printing Six Sheets are

found so dull that they have been oppressed – – I will write you a Letter of News on friday I confess to you that this has been most confoundedly against the grain –

I remain my Lord

Your faithful friend & Servant

John Murray

Murray answers Byron’s of June 7th and 8th.
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43496; LJM 321-2)

My Lord

You can not conceive how much my mind has been relieved your most kind & liberal acceptation of our opinion of the propriety of publishing any of the new Poems immediately – but I do beseech you not to conceive it possible the mere L.S.D. have any thing to do with the business for as I observed in my last I will most joyfully give whatever estimation you or your friends may place upon them, soliciting only a discretionary power as to the time of publication – in fact as I have already ventured to state I wish previously to have the honour of putting forth some very original & powerful poem by

58: H. is still smarting over My Boy Hobby-O. His diary for June 8th 1820 reads, “Windows broken last night – called on Murray today and told him my opinion about Byron’s poems in Mss. Heard from Byron a day or two ago – he excuses his ballad but poorly I think”. 
your Lordship – & then to follow it by these which I now have – This I think the Tragedy will do. In all this my own advantage is identified with your Lordships fame and for the rest entirely upon the principles which have hitherto secured to me the favour of your Lordships unvarying confidence.

I am glad that your Lordship appears by your

1:2

just & pungent notice of some of them to have received at least one of the packets of books which I sent out to you by way of experiment – you do not happen however to notice <either> any one of those sent out by another conveyance, at the same time – but this may arise from the accident of your not having read any of them – other two parcels are on the road – I have put up <if>a supply of tooth Powder Myrh &c & some novelties, and having discovered this safe & regular mode of communication I will take care to supply you with all necessaries.

I dont know what to make of Goethes Rhapsody on Manfred I shewed to Mr Frere who said that he still continued to place Manfred in thighest Class of Poetry – Whistlecraft is perfect Caviere to the Million – and the author is very much in dudgeon at this – You do not say a word of three books of wch I much desire your opinion Anastasius – long attributed to you – The Fall of Jerusalem and The Diary of an Invalid.

Sir Humphry Davy is returned and is to be the Successor of Sir Joseph Banks at the Roy1 Society A Literary Society composed of Buffs & Blues – meets on Tuesdays at Lydia Whites – Lady Besboroughs &c – One evening at Lydia Whites – Mr Rose said addressing himself to Lady B – I tell you what Lady B – I propose

1:3

– that no lady of unimpeached shall be a member of this Society – (Lydia White pummelled him with her fan) – but, continues Rose, – then they say that this might exclude Lydia White (Lydia was pacified) – but then they say – that there is a Story about Lydia White – at Bath –

We are in a pretty Scrape with the Queen do you remember <the the adv> – L’avanture du pot de chambre”?

I shall be anxious until I have the satisfaction of hearing from your Lordship again – With Compliments I remain

My Lord

your obliged & faithful Servant

John Murray

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Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, July 6th 1820:

(Source: NLS Ms.43490; LJ V 46; BLJ VII 124)

[To, J. Murray Esq. / 50. Albemarle Street. / London / Angleterre. / Inghilterra.]

A single sheet, although Byron gets as much writing in as possible. He answers Murray’s of June 13th, and threatens to find another publisher.


Dear Murray –

My former letters will prove that I found no fault with your opinions nor with you for acting upon them – but I do protest against your keeping me, four months in suspense – without any answer at all. – As it is you will keep back the remaining trash till I have woven the tragedy of which I am in the 4th act. – With regard to terms I have already said that I named & name none – – they are points <upo> which I <keep> leave between you and my friends – as I cannot judge upon the subject, – neither to you nor to them – have I named any sum – nor have I thought of any – nor does it matter. – – –

But if you don’t answer my letters – I shall resort to the Row,60 – where I shall not find probably good manners or liberality – but at least I shall have an answer of some kind. – You must not treat a blood horse as you do your hacks otherwise he’ll bolt out of the course. – Keep back the stuff till I can send you the remainder – but recollect that I don’t promise that the tragedy will be a whit better than the rest. – All I {shall} require then <is> {will be} a positive answer but a speedy one & not <excuse the word> an61 <shuffling> {awkward} delay. – Now you have spoken out are you any the worse for it? – & could

59: The trial of Queen Caroline has begun.
60: Paternoster Row, headquarters of many other London publishers.
61: B. adds the “n” to “a”.
not you have done so five months ago? – Do you think I lay a stress upon the merits of my “poeshie” – I assure you I have many other things to think of. – At present I am eager to know

1:2

[above address:] the result of the Colliery question between the Rochdale people and myself – the cause has been heard – but as yet Judgement is not passed – at least if it is I have not heard of it. – – Here is one thing of importance to my private affairs. – The next [below address:] is that I have been the cause of a great conjugal scrape here – which is now before the Pope (seriously I assure you) and what the decision of his Sanctity will be no one <b>can predicate. – It would be odd that having left England for one Woman (“Vittoria Corombona the White Devil” to wit) 62 I should have to quit Italy for another. – The husband is the greatest man in these parts and [parallel to address:] with 100000 Scudi a year – but he is a great Brunello 63 in politics and private life – & is shrewdly suspected of more than one murder. – The relatives are on my side because they dislike him – we wait the event. y<sup>e</sup>, truly

[scrawl]

Murray to Byron, from 50, Albemarle Street, London, July 14th 1820:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43496; LJM 325-6)
[Milord / Milord Byron / poste restante / Ravenna / Italie]

**Murray apologises for his indecision.**

My Lord

M'<sup>r</sup> Hobhouse has just called 64 and with a kindness which makes me feel the more severely, has communicated your displeasure at my long & Stupid silence upon the subject of the Poems. I assure you I am most sincerely grieved at this but I could not induce myself to write about any thing at once so delicate & disagreeable – & until I was assured of the concurrent opinion of M'<sup>r</sup> Hobhouse & M'<sup>r</sup> Kinnaird could I venture to state what had occurred to me – but this <rea> was I assure your Lordship the sole cause of my long silence and as it was constituted of respect & friendship I hope you will do me the favour to renew your wonted kindness & confidence – believing that I will do so no more I assure you if you knew the distress my silence occasioned me you would not

1:2

compleatly anihylate me with your displeasure. I have already told your Lordship if you still desire to publish the poems &c I will do so – but I would recommend the previous publication of the Tragedy – I see constantly your friend M'<sup>r</sup> Bankes who never fails to talk to me about you, I wish you had seen his drawings I am perfectly confounded by his Stupendous labours & the novelties whc he has elaborated by his inconceivable industry – if you had been the least aware of what was to have been done in Egypt I think you would have accompanied him – I have nearly finished a most interesting Work on the same Subject by Belzoni which I will send your Lordship –

Pray tell me how you like the Fall of Jerusalem – Diary of an Invalid & Anastasius – all remarkable of their kind – & Ricciarda also by Foscolo

1:3

We neither speak nor hear anything here except about the Queen.
M'<sup>r</sup> Leigh who was with me just now is anxious to hear from you –
I entreat you to send me a Letter of forgiveness & to believe that I am
My Lord

Your grateful & truly faithful
friend & Servant
John Murray

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, July 17th 1820:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43490; LJ V 52-5; BLJ VII 131-3)

62: B.’s parallel between Annabella and the heroine of Webster’s *The White Devil* seems a bit far-fetched.
63: Brunello is either the sorcerer in Ariosto’s *Orlando Furioso*, III–IV, or the horse thief in XXVII, hanged in XXXII. His name means “ginger-haired,” the colour of Alessandro Guiccioli’s hair when younger.
64: H.’s diary has no reference to Mu. on this date.

Dear Murray –

Moore writes that he has not yet received <the> my letter of January 2d, consigned to your care for him – I believe this is the sixth time I have begged of you to forward it & I shall be obliged by your so doing. – – –

I have received some books and quarterlies – & Edinburghs – for all which I am grateful – they contain all I know of England except by Galignani’s newspaper. – – – – – – –

The tragedy 65 is completed but now comes the task of copy and correction – it is very long (42 Sheets of long paper of 4 {pages} each), and I believe must make more than 140 – or 150 pages – besides many historical extracts as notes which I mean to append. – <I have> History is closely followed. – D’.

Moore’s account is in some respects false and in all foolish and flippant – none of the Chronicles – (and I have consulted Sanuto – Sandi – Navagero – { & an anonymous Siege of Zara} – besides the histories of Laugier Daru – Sismondi &c.) state, or even hint that he begged his life – they merely say that he did not deny the conspiracy. – He was one of their great

1:2

men – commanded at the siege of Zara – beat 80,000 Hungarians killing 8000 – and at the same time kept the town he was besieging in order. – Took Capo d’Istria; – was ambassdor at Genoa Rome and finally Doge – where he fell – [for treason in attempting to alter the Government] by what Sanuto calls a judgement on him for many years before (when Podesta and Captain of Treviso) having knocked down a bishop, who was sluggish in carrying the host at a procession. – He <went> “saddles him” as Thwackum did Square “with a Judgement” 66 but does not mention whether he had been punished at the time – for what would appear very strange even now – & must have been still more so – in an age of Papal power & glory – Sanuto says – that Heaven took away his senses for this buffet – in his old age – and induced him to conspire. –

“Pero fu permesso che il Faliero perdette
l’intelletto, &c.” –

I don’t know what your parlour boarders will think of the drama I have founded upon this extraordinary event – the only similar one in history is the story of Agis King of Sparta 67 – a prince with the

1:3

Commons against the aristocracy – & losing his life therefor – but it shall be sent when copied. – I should be glad to know why your Quatering Reviewers – at the Close of “the Fall of Jerusalem” accuse me of Manicheism? a compliment to which the sweetener of “one of the mightiest Spirits” by no means reconciles me. – – The poem they review is very noble – but could they not do justice to the writer – without converting him into my [religious] Antidote? – I am not a Manichcan – {nor} an Any- chean. – I should like to {know} what harm my “poesies” have done – I can’t tell what people mean by making me a hobgoblin. – – –

This is the second thing of the same sort – they could not even give a lift to that poor Creature Gally Knight – without a similar insinuation about “moody passions” now are not the passions the food and fuel of poesy? – I {greatly} admire Milman; – but they had better not bring me down upon Gally <in person> for whom I have no such admiration. – – – I suppose he buys two thousand pounds’ worth of books in a year – which makes you so tender of him – But he won’t do – my Murray – he’s middling – and writes like a Country Gentleman – for the County Newspaper. – I shall be glad to hear from you – & you’ll write now because you will <want> want to keep me in

1:4

a good humour till you can see what the tragedy is fit for. – I know your ways – my Admiral. y’s. ever truly

[scrawl]

65: Marino Faliero.
66: Fielding, Tom Jones, Bk V Ch 2.
67: Alfieri had written a tragedy about Agis. See Marino Faliero, V iii 20-1.
Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, July 22nd 1820:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43490; LJ V 57-61; QII 521-3; BLJ VII 137-9)

[To, John Murray Esqre / 50 Albermarle Street, London / Angleterre / Inghilterra.]

Byron answers Murray’s of June 29th.

Ravenna. July 22d, 1820

Dear Murray –

The tragedy is finished but when it will be copied is more than can be reckoned upon. – We are here upon the eve of evolutions and revolutions. – Naples is revolutionized – & the ferment is among the Romagnoles – by far the bravest and most original of the present Italians – though still half savage. – Buonaparte said the troops from Romagna were the best of his Italic corps and I believe it. – The Neapolitans are not worth a curse – and will be beaten if it comes to fighting – the rest of Italy – I think – might stand. – The Cardinal is at his wit’s end – it is true – that he had not far to go. – Some papal towns on the Neapolitan frontier have already revolted. – Here there are as yet but the sparks of the volcano – but the ground is hot – and the air sultry. – Three assassinations last week – here & at Faenza – {an anti-liberal} priest, a factor, and a trooper last night – I heard the pistol shot that brought him down within a short distance of my own door. – There had been quarrels between the troops and people of some duration – this is the third soldier wounded within the last month. – There is a great commotion in people’s minds – which will lead to nobody knows what – a row probably. – – – There are secret Societies all over the country as in Germany – who cut off those obnoxious to them like the Free tribunals – be they high or low – and then it becomes impossible to discover or punish {the assassins} their measures are taken so well. – – – – – – –

You ask me about the books – Jerusalem is the best, – Anastasius 68 good but no more written by a Greek – than by a Hebrew – the diary of an Invalid good and true bating a few mistakes about “Serventismo” which no foreigner can understand or really know – without residing years in the country. – I read that part (translated that is) to some of the Ladies in the way of knowing how far it was accurate and they laughed particularly at the part where he says that “they must not have children by their lover” – “assuredly (was the answer) we don’t pretend to say that it is right – but men cannot conceive the repugnance that a woman has to have children except by the man she loves. – they have been known even to obtain abortions when it was by the other – but that is rare – I know one instance however of a woman making herself miscarry – because she wanted to meet her lover [(they were in two different cities)] in the lying in month (hers was should have been in October) she was a very pretty woman – young & clever & brought on by it a malady which she has not recovered to this day; – however she met her Amico by it at the proper time – it is but fair to say that he had dissuaded her from this piece of amatory atrocity – and was very angry when he knew that she had committed it – but the “it was for your sake – to meet you at the time which could not have been otherwise accomplished” applied to his Self love – disarmed him – and they set about supplying the loss. – I have had a little touch of fever again but it has re=

=ceded. – The heat is <85> 85 in the Shade. – I remember what you say of the Queen 69 it happened in Lady O——’s boudoir [or dressing room] if I recollect {rightly,} but it was not her Majesty’s fault – {though} very laughable at the time – a minute sooner she might have stumbled over something still more awkward. – How the Porcelain [came there] I cannot conceive – and remember asking Lady O. afterwards – who laid the blame on the Servants. – I think the Queen will win – I wish she may – she was always very civil to me. – – You must not trust Italian witnesses – nobody believes them in their own courts – why should you? For 50 or 100 Sequins you may have any testimony you please – and the judge

68: Thomas Hope’s Anastasius (1819) is to be a vital subtext for the rest of Don Juan.
69: Mu. to B., June 29th: “We are in a pretty scrape with the Queen do you remember … L’avanture du pot de chambre?”.
Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, July 24th 1820:
(Source: NLS Ms.43490; LJ V 62; BLJ VII 141-2)

[To, Jno. Murray Esq. / 50. Albemarle Street. / London / Angleterre. / Inghilterra.]

A single sheet with lots of empty space.

Ravenna. July 24th. 1820.

Dear Murray,

Enclosed is the account from Marin Sanuto of Faliero &c. You must have it translated (to append original and translation to the drama when published) it is very curious & simple in itself and authentic – I have compared it with the other histories – that blackguard D'r. Moore has published a false and flippant story of the transaction.

P.S.
The first act goes by this post. – Recollect that without previously reading the Chronicle, it is difficult to understand the tragedy. – So – translate. – – I had this reprinted separately on purpose. – – – –

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, August 7th 1820:
(Source: NLS Ms.43490; LJ V 63; BLJ VII 150)

[To, Jno. Murray Esq. / 50. Albemarle Street. / London. / Angleterre. / Inghilterra.]

Ravenna. Agosto 7º. 1820.

Dear Murray –

I have sent you three acts of the tragedy, and am copying the others slowly but daily. – Enclosed are some verses Rose sent me two years ago and more. – They are excellent description. – Pray desire Douglas K. to give you a copy of my lines to the Po {in 1819} – they say “they be <the> good rhymes”70 and will {serve to} swell your next volume. Whenever you publish – publish all as you will except the two Juans – which had better be annxed to a new edition of the two first as they are not worth separate publication – and I won’t barter about them. – Pulci is my favourite – that is my translation – I think it the acme of putting one language into another. – – – – I have sent you my Say upon y'r. recent books – Ricciarda I have not yet read – having lent it to the <Italians> {natives} – who will pronounce upon it. – The Italians have as yet no tragedy – Alfieri’s are political dialogues – except Mirra. – – – – Bankes has done miracles of research and enterprize – – salute him.

I am yº.

[scrawl]

1:2 [parallel to address:] Pray send me by the first opportunity some of Waite’s red tooth=powder.

Murray to Byron, from 50, Albemarle Street, London, August 12th 1820:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43496; LJM 327-9)

Address missing.

Murray responds to Act I of Marino Faliero, dispatched by Byron on July 24th.

London August 12. 1820

My Lord

You will easily believe the gratification which I felt at the mark of your Lordships continued confidence which I received in the receipt yesterday, on my return from Ramsgate, of the First Act of The Tragedy71 – whi<ch I instantly sent to the printer & proofs of which I hope to send you on

70: A statement attributed to Pope’s father on reading one of his son’s early poems.
71: Marino Faliero.
Tuesday next or at any rate by Friday. I will send a proof also to Gifford & request any remarks that may occur to him – The Italian prose I have given to be translated & when set up I shall submit it to your Lordships correction. If you have put your soul into this Tragedy it will make a sensation which I long to report to you – pray register carefully every improvement & every new beauty that may in the mean time suggest themselves to you. My heart is in the next work of yours –

I am much rejoiced to have discovered so certain a conveyance of parcels to you & will take care to send anything of interest – I am much gratified to find that you think well of the Fall of Jerusalem – after Samor <I>wo</I> the expectations excited by Fazio – were sadly depressed – & when the MSS was sent me I shuddered – I took it up stairs with me at dinner intending to send it to Gifford entreatment him to read a few pages – & to invent for me some new excuse for declining to print it – – in this process I accidentally wandered on the first page – I never quitted the MSS until I had finished it at 3 in the morning – I can not tell why you should be lugged in – one way or other in every criticism upon Poetry –

1:2

modern of the present day, except that you are the Standard perpetually in mens thoughts & are spoken of in some shape or other – as envy disappointment or admiration direct – there is not a Poem reviewed in the Million of Newspapers Magazines & the devil knows what – but what you are pecked at – and every new work of yours hitherto has just dashed to they primitive Mud – all the Statues of Clay wch stupidity has endeavoured to place by your Side – as to favouring the Author of Eastern Sketches believe me there is no such feeling in my mind wch in matters of Literature is regulated by more other than my own reputation as a publisher – but you cannot always resist the entreaties of friends – the Author is without drawback one of the most amiable of Men – & consequently has many friends at work for him – but trust me I will give up Nine tenths of the works wch one sort of persuasion or another induced me to print for the <I>honour along</I> of publishing one of yours & "<I>si tu deseris me periam</I>” – I have subjected myself to such incessant interruption that my mind is dissipated in the day – and fatigued at night – & wishing to write fully to you & being unable to collect my thoughts I must I allow appear shamefully remis in not answering immediately your ever kind & interesting letters – but I declare to God I never have swerved one iota from my sincere & affectionate attachment & gratitude to you whose fame & steady friendship I am so largely indebted.

I have sent to Moore your Letter to him of January, which I had mislaid – They tell me that his “Rhimes on the Road” were so dull that after setting up <6> Six Sheets they were obliged to distribute them & give up the publication. I wish you would send me a {very small} volume of facetious nonsense to be published Anonymously – & I would print it in Edinburgh – – “Advice to Julia” it is written by a Mr Luttrell <I>I am just now engaged in publishing an Account of> Send me some half dozen Poetical Epistles in wch you may {amongst other topics} notice all, or several<,> of, the new books Reviews &c – wch <you> have struck you –

I am now printing Belzonis Acco’ of his Excavations in Egypt – wch is very interesting indeed – I wish you had been there in company with your friend Mr Bankes – who has been indefatigable in his labours & has brought home collections that will immortalize him – he is by far the most valuable traveller that ever existed – He speaks of you in the highest terms of friendship & regrets that he could not shew you his drawings – wch, after all that I had heard of them – very far indeed surpassed all that I could conceive possible –

I have been most unlucky in not finding a confidential person to whom I could confide the beautiful portrait of Ada!!! <w> I have succeeded in getting it most exquisitely engraved & I now enclose two copies of it – & One also of an Engraving from Haydons Portrait of your self72 – wch by the way I do not think like – I have inclosed four engravings for Don Juan73 – of all of wch I beg yr opinion – I hope you continue well – Accept my Kindest Compliments & believe that at all times I remain

My dear Lord

your Lordships faithful & devoted Servant

Jno Murray

72: Not in Peach.
73: By Charles Heath, from drawings by Westall.
Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, August 12th 1820:
(Source: NLS Ms.43490; LJ V 64; BLJ VII 158)

[To, Jn'. Murray Esq'. / 50. Albemarle Street. / London / Angleterre. / Inghilterra.]
Another single sheet with much blank paper.

Ravenna. August 12th.
1820

Dear Murray – Ecco – the fourth Act. –
Received powder – tincture – books. – The first welcome – second ditto the prose at least – but no more modern poesy – {I pray} – neither Mrs. Hewoman’s – nor any of his ragamuffins. – – – Send me more tincture <and> by all means – & Scott’s novels – the Monastery. –
We are on the eve of a row here – Italy’s primed and loaded – and many a finger itching for the trigger. – So write letters while you can. I can say no more in mine for they open all.

yrs. very truly,
[long scrawl]

P.S.
Recollect that I told you
months ago – what would happen –
it is the same all over the boot –
though the heel has been the first
to kick – never mind these enigmas –
they’ll explain themselves. – – –

Murray to Byron, from 50, Albemarle Street, London, August 15th 1820:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43496; LJM 331-2)

London Aug. 15th
1820

My Lord
This very hour brought me the Second Act of the Tragedy – I now inclose a proof of the first – which has just come in from the Printer & read this evening –
I have been sitting with Mrs. Leigh this Morning She has had much anxiety about three of her children in the Hooping Cough – I find that Sir Ralph & Lady Noel are both very ill indeed. I have just had a visit from Lady Webster, who would be most happy to see you again

1:2
She has lately been confined with a child who lives to encumber her – She tells me that Scrope Davies is gone to South America? – he was her great Admirer some time ago but I suspect not a bonnes fortunes – I was very sorry to find that you should lose the Rochdale cause – a Short time will bring you the Wentworth property & then you need not care –
At a Masquerade last Week Lady Caroline personified Don Juan – & had the Devils from the Theatre to attend her – it is positively true

1:3

Adieu – I shall write again on Friday with Act 2
I remain My Lord
your faithful Servt
Jno Murray
I wrote last Friday

74: It’s possible that the original was “Turdsworth’s”; “Wo” is in a different ink, and “Tu” pencilled over that.
75: Davies has had to fly the country because of his gambling debts.
Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, August 17th 1820:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43490; LJ V 65; BLJ VII 158-9)

[To, Jno. Murray Esq. / 50. Albemarle Street. / London / Angleterre. / Inghilterra.]
Another single sheet with much blank paper. Byron finds a new name for his publisher.

Ravenna. August 17th. 1820.

Dear Moray –

In t’other parcel is the 5th Act. – Enclosed in this are some notes – historical. --
Pray – send me no proofs – it is the thing I can least bear to see. -- -- -- The preface shall be written
and sent in a few days. -- Acknowledge the Arrival by [return of] post.

[long scrawl]

P.S.

The time for the Dante
would be now -- (did not her
Majesty occupy all nonsense) as Italy
is on the Eve of great things. --
I hear M'. Hoby <compared her to Jane Shore> {says {}“that} it makes him weep to see her {}She} reminds him so much of Jane Shore”}76

M'. Hoby the Bootmaker’s soft heart is sore
For seeing the Queen makes him think of Jane Shore
And in fact such a likeness should always be seen
Why should Queens not be whores? every Whore is a Queen.

this is only an epigram to the ear. -- I think she will win -- I am sure she ought -- poor woman. --
Is it true that absent peers are to be mulcted? does this include those who have not taken the oaths in
the present parliament? -- I can’t come, and I won’t pay. -- --

Murray to Byron, from 50, Albemarle Street, London, August 18th 1820:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43496; LJM 333)

[Milord / Milord Byron / poste restante / Ravenna / Italie]
A single sheet.

My Lord

I now inclose act II -- You will see by the inclosed77 what M' G. thinks of Act I -- I long for the rest

-- The Chronicles says that you arrived in London yesterday --

Ever y’ Lordships

faithful Serv' Jno Murray

Aug 18/20

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, August 22nd 1820:
(Source: NLS Ms.43490; LJ V 66; BLJ VII 161)

[To, Jno. Murray Esq. / 50. Albemarle Street. / London / Angleterre. / Inghilterra.]
By now Byron is sending Murray more blank paper than text. This sheet is 24 x 30 cm.

Dear Murray --

76: See Hobhouse to Byron, July 14th.
77: “the inclosed” untraced.
None of your damned proofs now recollect – print – paste – plaster – and destroy – but don’t let me have any of your printer’s trash to pore over. – For the rest I neither know nor care. –

y[scrawl]

August 22\textsuperscript{d}. 1820. –

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, August 24\textsuperscript{th} 1820:
(Source: NLS Ms.43490; LJ V 66; BLJ VII 162)
[To, J\textsuperscript{no.} Murray Esq\textsuperscript{re} / 50. Albemarle Street. / London / Angleterre. / Inghilterra.]
A single sheet. Is Byron’s diffidence about his works sincere, or does he want others to be responsible for them if they fail?

Ravenna. August 24\textsuperscript{th}. 1820.

Dear Murray –
Enclosed is an additional note to the play sent you the other day. – – The preface is sent too, – but as I wrote it in a hurry (the latter part particularly) <may> {it} {may} want some alterations – if so let me know – a what your parlour boarders think of the matter; – remember – I can form no opinion of the merits of this production – and will abide by your Synod’s. – – – If you should publish – publish them all about the same time, – it will be at least a collection of opposites. – You should not publish the new Cantos of Juan separately – {but} let them go in quietly [with] <the> the first reprint of the others – so that they may make little noise – as they are not equal to the first. The Pulci – the Dante – and the Drama – you are to publish as you like – if at all. –

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, August 29\textsuperscript{th} 1820:
(Source: NLS Ms.43490; LJ V 66; BLJ VII 165)
[To, J\textsuperscript{no.} Murray Esq\textsuperscript{re} / 50. Albemarle Street. / London / Angleterre. / Inghilterra.]
A single sheet. Why does Byron send Murray such an intimate Italian family document?

Ravenna. August 29\textsuperscript{th}. 1820.

Dear Murray –
I enclose to you for M’. Hobhouse (with liberty to read and translate or get translated – if you can – it will be nuts for Rose) copies of the letter of Cavalier Commendatore G – to his wife’s brother at Rome – and other documents – explaining this business which has put us all in hot water here. Remember – that Guiccioli is telling his own story – true in <the main> {some things} – and <clyin> {very} false in the details – the Pope has decreed against him; – <and his> {so also} have his wife’s relations which is much. – – No man has a right to pretend blindness – after letting a girl of twenty travel with another man – <who had> and afterwards taking that man into his house, – You want to know Italy – there’s more than Lady Morgan can tell me – in these sheets if carefully perused.

The enclosed are authentic. I have seen the originals. –

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, August 31\textsuperscript{st} 1820:
(Source: NLS Ms.43490; LJ V 67; BLJ VII 168-9)
[To, J\textsuperscript{no.} Murray Esq\textsuperscript{re} / 50. Albemarle Street. / London / Angleterre. / Inghilterra.]
Byron answers Murray’s of August 12\textsuperscript{th} and 15\textsuperscript{th}. He assures Murray that Mariano Faliero is not political.

Ravenna. August 31\textsuperscript{st}. 1820.

Dear Murray –
I have “put my Soul into the tragedy” (as you if it) but you know that there are damned Souls as well as tragedies. – Recollect that it is not a political play – though it may look like it – it is strictly historical, read the history – and judge. – – –

Ada’s picture is her mother’s – I am glad of it – the mother made a good daughter. – – – Send me Gifford’s opinion – & never mind the Archbishop78 – I can neither send you away – nor give you a hundred pistoles – nor a better taste.79 – I send you a tragedy and you ask for “facetious epistles” a little like your predecessor – who advised Dr. Prideaux to put “Some more humour into his Life of Mahomet”80. – The drawings for Juan are superb – the brush has beat the poetry – – In the annexed proof of Marino

1:2

Faliero – the half line

“The law my Prince – –

must be stopped thus”81 – – as the Doge interrupts Bertuccio Faliero. – – –

Bankes is a wonderful fellow – there is hardly one of my School and College Cotemporaries that has not turned out more or less celebrated. – Peel – Palmerstone – Bankes – Hobhouse – Tavistock – Bob Mills82 – Douglas Kinnaird – <hav> & & c. have all of them talked and been talked of – then there is your Galley Knight – and all that – but I believe that (except Milman perhaps) I am still the youngest of the fifteen hundred first of living poets – as W8m. Turdsworth is the oldest – Galley Knight is some Seasons my Senior – petty Galley! so “amiable”! – you Goose you – such fellows should be flung into Fleet Ditch83 – I would rather be a Galley Slave than a Galley Knight – so utterly do I despise the

1:3

middling Mountebank’s mediocrity in every thing but his Income. – – –

We are here going to fight a little – next month – if the Huns don’t cross the Po – – and probably if they do – I can’t say more now. – If anything happens – you have matter for a posthumous work – and Moore has my Memoirs in M.S.S. – so pray be civil. – – Depend upon it there will be savage work if once they begin here – the French Courage proceeds from <phlegm> vanity – the German from phlegm – the Turkish from fanaticism & opium – the Spanish from pride – the English from coolness – the Dutch from obstinacy – the Russian from insensibility – (but) the Italian from anger – so you’ll see that they will spare <nothing> nothing,84 – – What you say of [Lady] Caroline Lamb’s Juan at the Masquerade don’t surprise me – I only wonder that She went so far as “the Theatre” for “the Devils” – having them {so} much more natural

1:4 [above address:] at home – or if they were busy – she might have borrowed the bitch her Mother’s – Lady Bessborough to wit – – The hack whore [below address:] of the last half century. – –

[very heavy scrawl]

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, September 7th 1820:

(To, John Murray Esq. / 50. Albermarle Street. / London / Angletterre. / Inghilterra.)


Dear Murray –

In correcting the proofs – you must refer to the Manuscript – because there are in it various readings. – Pray – – attend to this – and choose what Gifford thinks best – Let me know what he thinks of the whole. – – – –

78: The Archbishop of Granada in Gil Blas, who can’t take criticism even when he asks for it.
79: “Get about your business!” pursued he, giving me an angry shove by the shoulders out of his closet; “go and tell my treasurer to pay you a hundred ducats, and take my priestly blessing in addition to that sum. God speed you, good Master Gil Blas! I heartily pray that you may do well in the world! There is nothing to stand in your way, but the want of a little better taste” – Gil Blas.
80: Humphrey Prideaux, The True Nature of Imposture fully display’d in the Life of Mahomet (1708).
81: It must be ended with a dash.
82: B. means “Milnes”.
83: As in The Dunciad.
84: In the event, the Italians run away.
You speak of Lady Noel’s illness – she is not of those who die – the amiable only {do;} and they <those> whose death would do good – live.

Whenever she is pleased to return – it [Ms. tear: “may”] be presumed that She will take her “divining=rod” <with> {along with} her – It <will> {may} be of use to her at home – as well as to the “rich man” of the Evangelists. – – – – – –

Pray do not let the papers paragraph me back to England – they may say what they please – any loathsome abuse – but that. – Contradict it. – – – – – – –

My last letters will have taught you to expect an explosion here – it was primed & loaded – but they hesitated to <draw the lugger.> {fire the train} – – One of the Cities shirked from the <league> league. – – – – – – –

I cannot write more at large – <or I could tell you volumes> {for a thousand reasons.} – – – Our “puir hill folk”<cto> [offered to] strike – – and <offered> to raise the first banner. – But <the<<y>> {Bologna} paused – and <still> [now] tis Autumn and <we Autumns> <fast as the ferns fall> <that name is blood> {the season half over} “Oh Jerusalem! Jerusalem!”

1:2

[above address:] the Huns are on the Po – but if once they pass it on their march to Naples, – all Italy will rise behind them – the Dogs – the Wolves – may they perish like the Host of Sennacherib! – If you want to publish the Prophecy of Dante – you never will have a better time. – Thanks for books – but as {yet} No “Monastery” of Walter Scott’s the only book except Edinburgh & Quarterly which [below address, inverted:] I desire to see. – Why do you send me so much trash upon Italy – such tears – &<.> which I know must be false. – – – Matthews is good – very good – all the rest – – are like Sotheby’s “Good” or like Sotheby himself – that old rotten Medlar of Rhyme. – – The Queen – how is it? – prospers She? – –

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, September 8th 1820:
(Source: NLS Ms.43490; LJ V 73; BLJ VII 173)
[To, Jno. Murray Esq. / 50. Albemarle Street. / London. / Angleterre. / Inghilterra.]
A single sheet with more space than ink.


Dear Murray –

You will please to publish the enclosed note without altering a word – – and to inform the author – that I will answer personally any offence to him. – He is a cursed impudent {liar}. – You shall not alter or [Ms. tear: “omit”] a syllable – publish the [Ms. tear: “note at”] the end of the play – and answer this [scrawl]

P.S.

You sometimes take the liberty of omitting what I send for publication – if you do so in this instance I will never speak <far> to you {again} as long as I breathe.

85: Scott, Waverley, Chap VII (“the scattered remnant of HILL-FOLK”: not “puir”).
86: The last paragraph on this page is very cramped. B.’s intended text is, ‘I cannot write more at large – for a thousand reasons. – – Our “puir hill folk” offered to strike – and offered to raise the first banner. – But Bologna paused – and now ‘tis Autumn and the season half over – “Oh Jerusalem! Jerusalem!”’
87: Compare Beppo, 74, 2.
88: B. has read Sketches Descriptive of Italy in the Years 1816, 1817, with a brief of Travels in various Parts of France and Switzerland in the same years (Murray, 4 vols 1820), by Miss E. A. Walde, who writes of … that charming picture by Giorgione, of himself, his wife, and his son, so admirably described in the witty “Beppo” of Lord Byron, and then has as a note: “I cannot but be flattered by finding, in some cases, a similarity between my own ideas and those so admirably expressed by his lordship in Childe Harold [sic] and Beppo. Except the above, I have not altered a single sentence I wrote while at Venice, though sensible that by doing so I lay myself open to the charge of plagiarism – a charge I can solemnly, and with the strictest truth, assert, would be wholly unfounded: nor can I have borrowed his ideas from conversation, since I repeatedly declined an introduction to him while in Italy (IV 159-60n). B. has an angry note on this at the end of Marino Faliero, which he regretted on learning the author’s sex.
Murray to Byron, from Ramsgate, Kent, September 8th 1820:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43496; LJM 334-5)
[Milord / Milord Byron / poste restante / Ravenna / Italie // stamped: FORLI 28 SET]
Murray answers Byron’s of August 12th, 17th, 22nd and 24th. He promises to publish all Byron’s recent work except the Morgante Maggiore.
Ramsgate
Sep'. 8. 1820

My dear friend

Do not I entreat your Lordship be offended at the reiterated arrival of more proofs of the Tragedy wch had been sent off before I was aware of your mighty dislike to the same – and wch I sent from the fear that the printer might have made important errors – therefore receive them patiently I pray – I have received Act 5 – notes & Preface – All of which we will print carefully – Gifford thinks the whole “fine writing but evidently intended for Study & not the Stage – the author will, however, lose no credit by it” This will be a good time as you say to put forth the Prophecy of dante – Pulci also & Don Juan shall also appear & the latter in the way your Lordship desires – As soon as the public are in the humour to read anything but about the Queen. How this unhappy affair will terminate no one that I have seen, affects, yet, to prognosticate. – All Peers who went abroad previous to the origin of this trial were exempted from the penalties of non attendance – With the Books lately sent, amongst them the earliest Copy of the Abbott, you will find

the whole trial, which I though you would be curious to see – I am sorry that your Lordship thinks so very meanly of M’s Hemans – I send you all sorts of books that you may see what is doing here – <is>

In the next or following Number of the Quarterly Review you will find a very curious Paper on Mitchell’s Aristophanes – by Frere – who has just said to Malta as a last hope of saving Lady Errol – who will probably die on the passage.

There are continued reports in the Papers of yr Lordships arrival in England – one recently is so circumstantial that I inclose it – and can add that One person has had the temerity to wager an £100 that he saw you the week before last in the Streets of London – Do give me a paragraph on the more important of the books that I send you – I am surprised & disappointed that you have not been more struck with Anastasius – which it thought to display something like Genius – for a long time it was believed to be yours & few even now though in the Second Edition he has put his name to it, will believe it to be written by Mr Hope. –

Rose is making progress in a translation of Ariosto three Cantos of wch he has just printed to

1.2

shew to his Critical friends – Gifford & others think very highly of it – His verses to you are very good – When I return to town – on Monday – I will apply to M’ Kinnaird – for the Verses of the Po – wch he had long told me were in your happiest Vein.

The Times are sadly out of Joint – By the way they have made one of the most interesting little Melo Drams out of the Vampire that I ever saw Let me know how you like the Abbott – there are some fine Parts in it & <che is a> Sir Walter is a truly Noble Fellow

With best compliments I remain Dearest Sir

Your Lordships
faithful friend & Servant
John Murray

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, September 11th 1820:
(Source: NLS Ms.43490; LJ V 75; BLJ VII 175)
[Tò, John Murray Esq’re. / 50. Albemarle Street. / London / Angleterre, / Inghilterra.]
Ravenna. Sept. 11th. 1820

Dear Murray

Here is another historical note for you – I want to be as near the truth – as <tragedy> the Drama can be. – -- -- --
Last post I sent you a note fierce as Faliiero himself – in answer to a trashy tourist who pretends that he could have been introduced to me. -- -- Let me have a proof of it – that I may cut its lava into some shape. -- -- -- --
What Gifford says is very consolatory – (of the first act) “English {sterling} genuine English,” is a disideratum amongst you – and I am glad that I have got so much left – though heaven knows how I retain it – I hear none but from my Valet – and his is Nottinghamshire – and I see none – but in your new publications – and theirs is no language at all – but jargon. – – – – –

Even y’、“New Jerusalem” is terribly stilted and affected – with “very very” – – so soft and pamby. – –

Oh! if ever I do come amongst you again

1:2 [above address:] I will give you such a “Baviad and Mæviad” not as good as the old – but even better merited. – There never was such a Set as your ragamuffins – (I mean not yours but every body’s) what with the Cockneys and the [below address:] Lakers – and the followers of Scott and Moore and Byron – you are in the very uttermost decline and degradation of Literature. – – – –

I can’t think of it without all the remorse of a murderer – I wish that Johnson were alive again to crush them.

I have as yet only had the first and second acts, & no opinion upon the second. – – – – – – – – –

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, September 14th 1820:
(Source: NLS Ms.43490; LJ V 76; BLJ VII 176)
[To, John Murray Esq. / 50. Albermarle Street. / London / Angleterre. / Inghilterra.]
A single sheet with much blank space. Byron does not even give a salutation.

Ravenna. Septr. 14th. 1820.

What? not a line. – Well have it your own way. – – – – – – –

I wish you would inform Perry that his <xxxxxx> <cursed> {stupid} paragraph is the cause of all my newspapers being stopped in Paris. – The fools believe me in your infernal country – and have not sent on their Gazettes – so that I know nothing of your beastly trial of the Queen. – – –

I cannot avail myself of M’. Gifford’s remarks – because I have received none except on the first act. –

y[scrawl]

P.S.

Do pray beg the Editors of papers to say anything blackguard they please but not to put me amongst their arrivals – they do me {more} mischief by such nonsense than all their abuse can do. – –

Byron to Murray, from 50 Albermarle Street London, September 15th 1820:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43496; LJM 340)
[Milord / Milord Byron / poste restante / Ravenna / Italie // stamped: FORLI 5 OTT]

London Sept’. 15. 1820

My Lord

Preface – notes & all have now arrived safely & I send the first according to your desire – as the Subject of the Tragedy is so compleatly Venetian I was anxious to know what Foscolo would think if it – & I think there is no harm in sending your Lordship his account of his feelings on reading it. – I hope you may be in the mind to revise & lop off any redundancies – for it is a great work & deserves your careful finish.

This I propose to print separately – and then shall I put Prrophecy of Dante – Po<> – Juan III & IV – Dante – Pulci – into another Volume – without the Authors name – & bring them out at the same time – adding Letter to My Grand Mothers Review – & Blackwoods Mag. – these will surely be variety enough.

I have this day received some alterations of the Tragedy & the Curious Italian Letters from the Marquis wch I will send to M’ Hobhouse who will I dare say translate them for me – it is prodigious fun – for you to have gained the cause against the Marquis –

I am anxious to hear from you again great events may, have occurred – we are in a queer state here – but after all I apprehend

1:2
that John Bulls good Sense will weather the Storm –
I remain My Lord
your faithful Servant
John Murray

[1:3 blank; 1:4 contains address.]

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, September 21st 1820:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43490; LJ V 76; BLJ VII 176-7)
[To, John Murray Esq. / 50. Albemarle Street. / London / Angleterre. / Inghilterra.]
A single sheet with less blank space. Again Byron does not give a salutation.

Ravenna. Sep‘. 21st. 1820. –

So you are at your old tricks again – this is the second packet I have received unaccompanied by a single line of good bad or indifferent. – It is strange that you have never forwarded any further observations of Gifford’s – how am I to alter or amend if I hear no further? – or does this silence mean that it is well enough as it is – or too bad to be repaired? – If the last – why do you not say so at once instead of playing pretty – since you know that soon or late you must out with the truth

P.S.
My Sister tells me that you sent
to her to enquire where I was – believing
in my arrival – “driving a curricule” &c. &c. into palace yard –
do you think me a Coxcomb or a madman
to be capable of such an exhibition? My
Sister knew me better and told you that
could not be true – you might as well
have thought me entering on “a pale
horse” like Death in the revelations. --

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, September 23rd 1820:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43490; LJ V 77; BLJ VII 179)
[To, Jno. Murray Esq. / 50. Albemarle Street. / London / Angleterre. / Inghilterra.]

Ravenna. Sept‘. 23d. 1820.

Dear Murray –

Get from M‘. Hobhouse and send me a proof (with the Latin) of my Hints from H&; – it has now <been> the “nonum prematur in annum”<sup>89</sup> <at><as its> {complete} for its production – <and> being written at Athens in 1811. – I have a notion that with some omissions of names and passages it will do – and I could put my late observations for Pope among the notes with the date of 1820. and so on. – As far as versification goes – it is good – and on looking back to what I wrote <at> {about} that period – I am astonished to see how little I have trained on -- I wrote better then than now – but that comes from my having fallen into the atrocious bad taste of the times – partly -- -- It has been kept too nine years – nobody keeps their piece nine years now a days – except Douglas K. – he kept his nine years and then restored her to the public.<sup>90</sup> --

1:2

If I can trim it for present publication – what with the other things you have of mine – you will have a volume or two of variety at least – for there will be all measures styles and topics – whether good or no. – <who> -- I am anxious to hear what Gifford thinks of the tragedy -- -- pray let me know -- I really do not know what to think myself -- --

If the Germans pass the Po – they <mean to give their> {will be treated to} a Mass out of the Cardinal de Retz’s Breviary<sup>91</sup> --

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<sup>89</sup>: Hor. Ars Poetica l.388; “keep your poem nine years”. B. obeyed Horace in no other case.
<sup>90</sup>: Refers to Maria Keppel.
<sup>91</sup>: Retz refers to a peaceful man who was forced to carry a dagger, which was called his “breviary”.
Galley Knight’s a fool – and could not understand this – Frere will – it is as pretty a conceit as you <wil> [would] wish to see upon a Summer’s day. 92 – –

Nobody here believes a word of the evidence against the Queen – the very mob cry shame against their countrymen –

1:3

and say – that for half the money spent upon the trial – any testimony whatever may be <had> <in> [brought out of] Italy. – – –

This you may rely upon as fact – – I told you as much before – as to what travellers report – what are travellers? – now I have lived among the Italians – not Florence and Rome – and Galleried – and Conversationed it for a few months – and then home again – but been of their families – and friendships – and feuds – and loves – and councils – and correspondence – [in a part of Italy least known to foreigners –] and have been amongst them of all classes – from the Conte to the Contadino – and you may <say> [be sure] <on/of what I say to you. – – – – – –

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, September 28th 1820 (a):
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43490; LJ V 77; BLJ VII 179)
[To, John Murray Esqre / 50. Albemarle Street / London. / Angleterre. / Inghilterra.]
Byron sends his unpleasant poem Question and Answer, describing Samuel Rogers.

Sept. 28th. 1820

Mr. J. Murray –

Can you keep a Secret? not you – you would rather keep a w –– e I believe of the two – although a moral man – and “all that – Egad” – as Bayes says. – However I request and recommend to you to keep the enclosed one 93 – viz – to give no copies – to permit no publication – e(Ms. tear: “lse”) you and I will <fall out> [be two]. – It wa[Ms. tear: “s written n”]early three years ago – upon the double[al(Ms. tear: “ched”)] fellow – it’s argument – in consequence of a letter <from Italy> exposing some of his usual practices. – You may show it – to Gifford – Hobhouse – D.Kinnaird and any two or three of your own Admiralty favourites – but don’t betray it, or me, else you are the worst of men. – – –

Is it like? – if not – it has no merit. – Does he deserve it? – if not – burn it. – He wrote to M. (so M says) the other day saying on some occasion – “what a fortunate fellow you are! surely you were born with a rose in your lips, and a Nightingale singing on the

1:2

[above address:] bed=top” – M. sent me this extract as an instance of the old Serpent’s sentimental twaddle. – I replied – that I believed that “he (the twaddler) was born with [below address:] a Nettle in his a — and a Carrion Crow croaking on the bolster”, a parody somewhat undelicate – but such trash puts one stupid – besides the Cant of it – in a fellow who hates everybody. [scrawl] Is this good? tell me and I will send you one still better of that blackguard [up right-hand side:] Brougham; – there is a batch of them. –

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, September 28th–29th 1820:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43490; LJ V 77; BLJ VII 181-2)
[To, John Murray Esqre / 50 Albemarle Street / London / Angleterre. / Inghilterra.]
This letter is on four sheets, half of one side of which is written upside-down. It starts twice, with the comical poem as a “second letter”, then Byron opens it and adds two more sheets.

Ravenna. Sept. 28th. 1820.

Dr. M” –

I thought that I had told you long ago – that it 94 never was intended nor written with any view to the Stage. – I have said so in the preface too. – It is too long – and too regular for your stage. – The persons too few – and the unity too much observed. – It is more like a play of Alfieri’s

92: Shakespeare, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, I i 76.
93: B. encloses Question and Answer, his horrid poem about Samuel Rogers.
94: Marino Faliero.
than of your stage – (I say this humbly in speaking of that great Man –) but there is poetry – and it is equal to Manfred – though I know not what esteem is held of Manfred. – –

I have now been nearly as long out of England – – as I was there – during the time when I saw you frequently – I came home July 14th. 1811 – and left again April 25th. 1816. – So that Septr. 28th. 1820 – brings me within a very few months of the same duration of time of my stay – and my absence.

1:2

In course I can know nothing of the public taste and feelings but from what I glean from letters & c. – both seem to be as bad as possible. – –

I thought Anastasius excellent – did I not say so?95 – – Matthews`s Diary96 most excellent – it and Forsyth and parts of Hobhouse – are all we have of truth or sense upon Italy. – Ye letter to Julia97 very good indeed. – I do not despise Mr. Heman – but if ye knit [blue] stockings instead of <spinning verses> [wearing them] it would be better. – You are taken in by that false stilted trashy style <that> (which) is a mixture of all the styles of the day – which are all bombastic (I don`t except my own – no one has done more through negligence to corrupt the language) but it is neither English nor poetry. – –

Time will show. –

I am sorry Gifford has made no further remarks

1:3

beyond the first act – does he think all the English equally sterling – as he thought the first? – You did right to send me the proofs – I was a fool – but I do really detest the sight of proofs – it is an absurdity – but comes from laziness. – –

You can steal the two Juans into the world quietly – tagged to the others. – –

The play as you will – the Dante too – but the Pulci I am proud of – it is superb – you have no such translation – It is the best thing I ever did in my life. – I wrote the play – from beginning to end – and not a single scene without interruption & being obliged to break off in the middle – for I had my hands full – and my head too just then, – so it can be no great shakes – I mean the play – and the head too if you like. – ————

[scrawl]

P.S. – Send me proofs of “the
Hints” get them from Hobhouse.

1:4

Dear Murray

You ask for a “volume of Nonsense”

Have all your authors exhausted their store?

I thought you had published a good deal not long since

And doubtless the <press must be> [Squadron] are ready with more –

But on looking again – I perceive that the Species

Of “Nonsense” you want must be purely “facetious” –

And as that is the case you had best put to press

Mr. Sotheby’s tragedies now in MS.S. – –

Some Syrian Sally

From common=place Gally

Or if you prefer the bookmaking of women

Take a spick and Span “Sketch” of your feminine He=Man.

[small scrawl]

Why do you ask me for opinions of your ragamuffins – you see what you get by it – but recollect I never give opinions till required. – – ———— –

2:1

95: Byron`s brief exclamation about Thomas Hope`s novel Anastasius covers up the assiduity with which he has read it, and the extent to which he will borrow its ideas in Don Juan.

96: Henry Matthews, The Diary of an Invalid (Murray, 1820).

97: By Henry Luttrell.
P.S. Politics here still savage and uncertain – however we are all in “our bandaliers” to join the “Highlanders if they cross the Forth” i.e. to crush the Austrians if they pass the Po. — The rascals! – and that Dog Liverpool to say that their subjects were happy – what a liar! – if ever I come back I’ll work some of thes[Ms. tear: “e minister”]rs – –

[2:2 has the address]

3:1

Sept. 29th. – I open my letter to say – that on reading more of the 4 volumes on Italy99 – where the Author says “declined an introduction” I perceive <and> (“horresco referens”) that it is written by a Woman!!!100 In that case you must suppress my note and answer – and all I have said about the book and the writer.” – I never dreamed of it till now – in extreme wrath at that precious note – – – I can only say that I am sorry that a Lady Should say anything of the kind. – What I would have said to a person with testicles – you know already. – Her book too (as a She book) is not a bad one – but she evidently
don’t know the Italians – or rather don’t like them – and forgets the causes of their misery and profligacy (Matthews and Forsyth are your men of truth and tact) and has gone over Italy in company always a bad plan. – You must be alone with people to know them well. – Ask her – who was the “descendant of Lady M. W. Montague” and by whom? <was> by Algarotti? –

[inverted at the page-bottom:] I suspect, that in Marino Faliero you and yours won’t like the politics which are perilous to you in these times – – but recollect that it is not a political play – & that I was obliged to put into the mouths of the Characters the sentiments uhon which they acted. – I hate all things written like Pizarro101 to represent France England & so forth – all I have done is meant to be purely Venetian – even to the very prophecy of its present state.

4:1

2.) Your Angles in general know little of the Italians – who detest them for their numbers and their Genoa treachery.102

Besides the English travellers have not been composed of the best Company – how could they? – out of 100000 how many gentlemen were there or honest men? – – – –

Mitchell’s Aristophanes is excellent – send me the rest of it.103 – I think very small beer of Mr. Galiffe – and his dull book.104 – Here and there some good things though – which might have been better. – – – – These fools will force me to write a book about Italy myself to give them “the loud lie” – –

4:2

They prate about assassination – what is it but the origin of duelling – – – and “a wild Justice” as Lord Bacon calls it105 – it is the fount of the modern point of honour – in what the laws – can’t or wont reach – Every man is liable to it more or less – according to circumstances or place. – For instance I am living here, exposed to it daily – for I have happened to make a powerful and unprincipled man my enemy; – and I never sleep the worse for it – or ride in less solitary places, – because – precaution is useless – and one thinks of it as a disease which may or may not strike; – it is true – that there are those here who if he did – would “live to think on’t” but that would not awake my bones; – – – I should be sorry if it would – were they once at rest. –

98: Scott, Waverley Ch.27: “ere you cross the Tweed you will hear tidings that will make the world ring”.
99: Sketches Descriptive of Italy in the Years 1816, 1817, with a brief of Travels in various Parts of France and Switzerland in the same years (Murray, 4 vols 1820), by Miss E. A. Waldie: see Marino Faliero, Appendix VIII.
100: “Woman!!!” underlined four times.
101: Sheridan’s 1799 tragedy about Spaniards in Peru, standing metaphorically for the English in Ireland.
102: In 1814 the English promised Genoa independence, then allowed it to be taken over by Sardinia.
103: The first volume of The Comedies of Aristophanes by Thomas Mitchell; Mu. publishes it whole in 1822.
104: Italy and its Inhabitants by James A. Galiffe (Murray, 1820).
105: Bacon calls revenge (not dueling) “a kind of wild justice” (Essay Of Revenge).
Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, October 1820:
(Source: Ms. not found; text from Coleridge VI 70; BLJ VII 188-9)

[extract]

I enclose you the stanzas\textsuperscript{106} which were intended for 1\textsuperscript{st} Canto, after the line

“Who to Madrid on purpose made a journey:”

but I do not mean them for present publication, because I will not, at this distance, publish that of a Man, for which he has a claim upon another too remote to give him redress.

With regard to the Miscreant Brougham, however, it was only long after the fact, and I was made acquainted with the language he had held of me on my leaving England (with regard to the D\[uche\]ss of D\[evonshire\]’s house), and his letter to M\'. de Stael, and various matters for all of which the first time he and I foregather – be it in England, be it on earth – he shall account, and one of the two be carried home.

As I have no wish to have mysteries, I merely prohibit the publication of these stanzas in print, for the reasons of fairness mentioned; but I by no means wish him not to know their existence or their tenor, nor my intentions as to himself: he has shown no forbearance, and he shall find none. You may show them to him and to all whom it may concern, with the explanation that the only reason that I have not had satisfaction of this man has been, that I have never had an opportunity since I was aware of the facts, which my friends had carefully concealed from me; and it was only by slow degrees, and by piecemeal, that I got at them. I have not sought him, nor gone out of my way for him; but I will find him, and then we can have it out: he has shown so little courage, that he must fight at last in his absolute necessity to escape utter degradation.

I send you the stanzas, which (except the last) have been written nearly two years, merely because I have been lately copying out most of the MSS. which were in my drawers.

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, October 6th 1820:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43490; LJ V 86; BLJ VII 191-3)

[To, J\textsuperscript{no}. Murray Esq. / 50. Albemarle Street / London / Angleterre / Inghilterra]

Ravenna: 8\textsuperscript{o}. 6. 1820

Dear M\'. –

You will have now received all the acts corrected of the M.F. – What you say of the “Bet of 100 guineas” made by some one \{who\} {who} {that} says \{that\} he saw me last week reminds me of what happened in 1810. You can easily ascertain the fact and it is an odd one. – – – –

In the latter end of 1811 I met one evening at the Alfred my old School, and form=fellow (for we were within two of each other – \{Peel\} he the higher – though both very near the top of our remove) Peel the Irish Secretary. – He told me that in 1810 he met me as he thought in S\'. James’s Street, but we passed without speaking. – He mentioned this – and it was denied as impossible – I being then in Turkey. – A day or two after he pointed out to his brother a person on the opposite side of the way – “there” said he “is the man \{whom\} I took for Byron”

1:2

his brother instantly answered “why it is Byron & no one else.” – But this is not all – I was seen \{by somebody\} to \textit{write down my name} amongst the Enquirers after the King’s health – then attacked by insanity. – Now – at this very period, as nearly as I could make out – I was ill of a \textit{strong fever} at Patras, caught in the marshes near Olympia – from the \textit{Malaria}. – – If I had died there \{this\} would have been a new Ghost Story for you. – – – – You can easily make out the accuracy of this from Peel himself, who told it in \textit{great} detail. –

I suppose you will be of the opinion of Lucretius – who (denies the immortality of the Soul – but) asserts that from the “flying off” of the Surfaces of bodies \{are\} perpetually, these surfaces or cases like the Coats of an onion are sometimes seen entire – when they are separated from it so that the shape &

1:3

\textsuperscript{106}: The stanzas on Brougham: they were replaced by Julia’s Letter.
shadows of both the dead and absent are frequently beheld”. – – – –
But if they are – are their coats & waistcoats also seen? – –
I do not disbelieve that we may be two – by some uncommon process – to a certain sign – but which of these two I happen at present to be – I leave you to decide – I only hope that t’other me behaves like a German. – – – –
I wish you would get Peel asked – how far am I accurate in my recollection of what he told me: for I don’t like to say such things without authority. – – – –
I am not sure that I was not spoken with – but this you can ascertain. – – – –
I have written to you such lots that I stop.

P.S. – Send me proofs of the “Hints from H. & c. & c.

1:4 [below address:] P.S. – Last year (in June 1819.) I met at Count Monti’s at Ferrara – an Italian who asked me “if I knew Lord Byron? –” I told him “no” (no one knows himself you know) “then” – says he – “I do – I met him at Naples the other day” I pulled out my card and asked him if that was the way he spelt his name – and he answered yes. – [above address:] I suspect that it Was a Blackguard Navy Surgeon named Bury or Berry – who attended a young travelling Madman about named Graham – and passed himself for a Lord at the Post houses – he was a vulgar dog – quite of the Cockpit order – and a precious representative I must had of him – if it was even so – but I don’t know. [parallel to address:] He passed himself off as a Gentleman and squired about a Countess Zinnani (of this place) then] at Venice – an [seal: “ugly”] battered woman of bad morals even for Italy.

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, October 8th 1820:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43490; LJ V 89-93; BLJ VII 194-6)
[To, John Murray Esq / 50. Albermarle Street / London / Angleterre / Inghilterra.]

Ravenna. 8bre. 8.0 1820

Dear Moray – Foscolo’s letter 107 is exactly the thing wanted – 1ly because he is a man of Genius – & next because he is an Italian and therefore the best Judge of Italics. – Besides –

“He’s more an antique Roman than a Dane”108

that is – he has more of the antient Greek – than of the modern Italian – Though “somewhat” as Dugald Dalgetty says “too wild and Salvage – (like “Ronald of the Mist”109 – ’tis a wonderful man – and my friends Hobhouse and Rose both swear by him – and they are good Judges of Men and of Italian humanity. –

“Here are in all two worthy voices gained” – 110

Gifford says it is good “sterling genuine English” and Foscolo says that the Characters are right Venetian – Shakespeare and Otway had a million of advantages over me – besides the incalculable one of having been dead from one to two Centuries – and having been both born blackguards (which are such attractions to the Gentle living reader;) let me then preserve the only one

1:2

which I could possibly have – that –of having been at Venice – and entered into the local Spirit of it – I claim no more – I know what F means about Calendaro’s spitting at Bertram – that’s national – the objection I mean – The Italians and French – with those “flags of Abomination – their pocket handkerchiefs – spit there – and here – and every – where else – in your face almost – and therefore object to it on the Stage as too familiar. – But – we who spit nowhere – but in a Man’s face – when we grow savage – are not likely to feel this. – Remember Massinger – and Kean’s Sir Giles Overreach.

“Lord! thus I Spit at thee and at thy Counsel!” – 111

107: See Foscolo to Murray, September 1820.
109: Scott, A Legend of Montrose, Chap. XIII.
110: Shakespeare, Coriolanus, II iii 78.
111: Massinger, A New Way To Pay old Debts, V i.
Besides – Calendaro does not spit in Bertram’s face – he spits at him – as I have seen the Mussulmans do upon the ground when they are in a rage. – Again – he does not in fact despise Bertram – though he affects it – as we all do – when angry with

1:3

one we think our inferior; he is angry at not being allowed to die in his own way – – (though not afraid of death) and recollect that he suspected & hated Bertram from the first. – Israel Bertuccio – on the other hand – is a cooler and more concentrated fellow – he acts upon principle and impulse – Calendaro upon impulse and example. – – So there’s argument for you. – – The Doge repeats; true – but it is from engrossing passion – – and because he sees different persons – and is always obliged to recur to the cause Uppermost in his mind. – His speeches are long – true – but I wrote for the Closet – and on the French and Italian model rather than yours – which I think not very highly, of – for all your old dramatists – who are long enough too God knows – look into any of them.

1:4

I wish you too to recollect one thing which is nothing to the reader. – – I never wrote nor copied an (entire) Scene of that play – without being obliged to break off – to break a commandment; – to obey a woman’s, and to forget God’s. – Remember the drain of this upon a Man’s heart and brain – to say nothing of his immortal Soul. – Fact I assure you – the Lady always apologized for the interruption – but you know the answer a man must make when and while he can. – It happened to be the only hour I had in the four and twenty for composition or reading and I was obliged to divide even it, such are the defined duties of a Cavalier Servente, or Cavalier Schiavo. I return you F’s letter – because it alludes also to his private affairs. – – I am sorry to See Such a man in straits – because I know what they are – or what they were. – I never met but three men who would have held out a finger

2:1

2.) to me – one was the other Wm Bankes – and the third a Nobleman long ago dead. – – But of these the first was the only one who offered it while I really wanted it – the second from good will – But I was not in need of Bankes’s aid and would not have accepted it if I had (though I love and esteem him) and the third – <three lines crossed out> So you see that I have seen some strange things in my time. – – As for yr. own offer it was in 1815 – When I was in actual uncertainty of five pounds. – I rejected it – but I have not forgotten it although you probably have. – – You are to publish when and how you please – but – I thought you and Mr. Hobhouse had decided not to print the whole of “Blackwood” as being partly unproducible – do as ye please after – consulting Hobhouse about it.

2:2

P.S. – Foscolo’s Ricciarda was lent with the leaves uncut to some Italians now in Villeggiatura – so that I have had no opportunity of hearing their opinion – or of reading it. – They seized on it as Foscolo’s and on account of the beauty of the paper and printing directly. – If I find it takes – I will reprint it here – the Italians think as highly of Foscolo as they can of any man – divided and miserable as they are – and with neither leisure at present to read, nor head nor heart to judge of anything but extracts from French newspapers and the Lugano Gazzette. – – We are all looking at one another like wolves on their prey in pursuit only waiting for the first faller on – to do unutterable things. They are a great world in Chaos – or Angels in Hell – which you please; – but out of Chaos came Paradise – and out of Hell – I don’t know what – but the Devil went in there – and he was a fine fellow once you know. – –

3:1

You need never favour me with any periodical publications excepting the Edinburgh – Quarterly – and an occasional Blackwood – or now and then a Monthly Review – for the rest I do not feel curiosity enough to look beyond their covers – – To be sure I took in the British Roberts finely – he fell precisely into the glaring trap laid for him – it was inconceivable how he could be so absurd as think us serious with him. – – Recollect that if you put my name to Juan” in these canting days – – any lawyer might oppose my Guardian right of my daughter in Chancery – on the plea of it’s containing the parody –
such are the perils of a foolish jest; – I was not aware of this at the time – but you will find it correct I believe – & you may be sure that the Noels would not let it slip – Now I prefer my child to a poem at any time – and so should you as having half a dozen. – – Let me know your notions. – – – – – –

[scribbled]

3:2

If you turn over the earlier pages of the H – peerage story – you will see how common a name Ada was in the early Plantagenet days – I found it in my own pedigree in the reign of John & Henry, and gave it to my daughter. – It was also the name of Charlemagne’s sister. It is in an early chapter of Genesis as the name of <Lameth’s> the wife of Lameth, and I suppose Ada is the feminine of Adam. It is short – antient – vocalic – and had been in my family – – for which reason I gave it to my daughter. – – – – – –

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, October 12th 1820:
(Source: text from B.L.Ashley 4745; LJ V 93-7; BLJ VII 199-202)

Byron’s first letter abusing Keats.

Dr Murray –

– By land and Sea Carriage a considerable quantity of books have arrived – and I am obliged and grateful. – But “Medio de fonte leporum surgit amari aliquid &c. &c”. – – which being interpreted means – –

“I’m thankful for your books dear Murray –
But why not send Scott’s Monastery?”

the only book in four living volumes I would give a baioccho to see, abating the rest of the same author, and an occasional Edinburgh & Quarterly – as brief Chroniclers of the times. – – –

Instead of this – here are John Keats’s p—ss a bed poetry 113 – and three novels by G—d knows whom – except that there is Peg Holford’s name to one of them 114 – a Spinster whom I thought we had sent back to her spinning. –

1:2

Crayon 115 is {very} good – Hogg’s tales 116 rough but racy – and welcome – Lord Huntingdon’s blackguard portrait may serve for a sign for his “Ashby de la Zouche” {Alehouse} – is it to such a drunken half=pay looking raft – that the Chivalrous Moira is to yield a portion of his titles? {into} what a huddle has <merged> {stagnated} the noble blood of the Hastings<s>? – and the bog=trotting barrister’s advertisement of himself and causes!! upon my word the house and the courts have made a pair of precious acquisitions? – I have seen worse peers than this fellow – but then they were made not begotten – (these Lords are) opposite to the Lord in all respects) – – but however stupid – however idle – and profligate – all the <lor> peers by inheritance had something of the gentleman {look} about them –

1:3

only the lawyers and the bankers

“promoted into Silver fish”

looked like <xxxxxxx> {ragamuffins} – till this – new <xxxxxxx> foundling came amongst them. – – –

Books of travels are expensive – and I dont want them – having travelled already – besides they lie. – – Thank the Author of “the Profligate” a comedy 117 for his (or her) present. – Pray send me no more

112: Lucretius, De Rerum Natura, IV 1224: medio de fonte leporum surget amari aliquid (“from the very fountain of enchantment rises a drop of bitterness”).
113: Keats’ Lamia, Isabella, and The Eve of St Agnes (1820; includes the Odes).
114: Margaret Holford, Warbeck of Wolfenstein (1820).
poetry but what is rare and decidedly good. – – There is such a trash of Keats and the like upon my tables – that I am ashamed to look at them. – – – I say nothing against your parsons – your Smedleys – and your Crolys – it is all very fine – but pray dispense me from the pleasure, as also from M". Hemans. – – – – – – – –

Instead of poetry if you will favour me with a few Soda powders – I shall be delighted – but all prose (bating travels and novels not by Scott) – – is welcome

1:4

especially Scott’s tales of My Landlord & so on. – – – –
In the notes to Marino Faliero it may be as well to say – “Benintende” was not really of the ten – – but merely Grand Chancellor – a separate office – (although important) – it was an [arbitrary] alteration of mine. – The Doges too were all [also] buried in Saint Mark’s before Faliero – it is singular that when his [immediate] predecessor Andrea Dandolo died – “the ten” made a law – – that all the future Doges should be buried with their families [in their own churches] – one would think by a kind of presentiment. – – So that all <I have> that is said of his Ancestral Doges as buried at Saint Johns & Paul’s – is altered from the fact – they being in Saint Mark’s — Make a Note of this and put Editor as the Subscription to it. –

2:1

2.) As I make such pretensions to accuracy – I should not like to be twitted even with such trifles on that score. – Of the play they may say what they please but not so of my costume – and dram. pers. {they having been} real existences. I omitted Foscolo in my list of living Venetian authors {in the Notes} – considering him as an Italian in general – and not a mere provincial – like the rest – and as an Italian I have spoken of <the> him in the preface to Canto 4th. of Childe Harold. – – – – The French translation of us!!! – – Oime! Oime! – and the German – – – – but I don’t understand the latter – nor his long dissertation at the end about the Fausts. – Excuse haste – of politics it is not safe to speak – but

2:2

nothing is decided as yet. – – – I should recommend your not publishing the prose – it is too late for the letter to Roberts and that to Blackwood – is too egotistical – and Hobhouse don’t like it – except the part about Pope, – which is truth and very good. – – I am in a very fierce humour at not having Scott’s Monastery. – You are too liberal in quantity and somewhat careless of the quality of your missives. – All the Quarterlies (4 in number) I had had before from you – and two of the Edinburghs – – but no matter – we shall have new ones by and bye. – No more Keats I entreat – – – flay him alive – if some of you don’t I must skin him myself there is no bearing the drivelling idiotism of the Mankin. – – – – – [dashes degenerate into scrawl]

3:1 [a scrap, written with care around a small mutilated sheet]

I don’t feel inclined to care further about “Don Juan” what do you think a very pretty Italian lady\(^\text{120}\) said to me the other day? – She had read it [in the] French, and paid me some compliments with [due] drawbacks upon it. – I answered that “what she said was true – but that I suspected that it would elive> [<outlive] longer than Childe Harold.” – “Ah (but said She) “I would rather have the fame of Childe Harold for three years than an Immortality of Don Juan!" – The truth [is that] it is too true – and the women hate every thing which strips off the tinsel of Sentiment – & they are right – – or it would rob them of their weapons. – I never knew a woman who did not hate De Grammont’s memoirs – for the same reason. – Even Lady Oxford used to abuse them. –

3:2

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118: B has the first volume of the translation by “A.-E. de Chastopalli” (Amédée Pichot and Eusèbe de Salle) 5 vols Paris 1820-2.
119: Two German translations of Manfred appeared in 1819, inc. one by Adolf Wagner, Leipzig (parallel text: N.B. this was Richard Wagner’s uncle).
120: T.G.
Thorwaldsen is in Poland, I believe; the bust is at Rome still – as it has been paid for these 4. years. It should have been sent – but I have no remedy till he returns. – – – –
Rose’s work I never received – it was seized at Venice. Such is the liberality of the Huns with their two hundred thousand men – that they dare not let such a volume as his circulate. –

[not B.’s hand] 12 Oct’. 1820

October 16th 1820: Byron starts Don Juan Canto V.

Murray to Byron, from Hereford, October 16th 1820:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43496; LJM 343-6)

Murray, having been touring with his sick wife, answers six of Byron’s letters at once.

Hereford Oct’. 16. 1820

My Lord
I am sure when you hear the cause of my recent silence you will with your accustomed clemency, forgive me – My wifes continued illness, escaping so recently from death, has induced me to avail myself of the dullest season that I ever remember, to follow the repeated injunctions of her Physician to try the effect of travelling in incessant change of air & place and for a month I have passed in this way – I arrived here yesterday & found six of your Lordships Letters. previous to my leaving home I gave directions that those letters wch appeared to contain the returned proofs should be opened & their contents to be immediately forwarded to M’ Gifford with whom I had arranged that he would go over each act with care & make his observations in writing so that they might be submitted to your Lordship & he had preferred doing this after they had passed through your hands, lest he should have been confused with printers errors – on my return I shall find this done & they shall be immediately sent to you. – The cause of the latter proofs being sent under blank covers was that I had directed them to be forwarded by the printer, to save time. – M’ Gifford had not written to me, his opinion on the succeeding acts merely expressing his general approbation & for some time he was incapable from illness of attending to any thing. I sent you Foscolos opinion. – Regarding the Prophecy of Dante I will publish this, with the beautiful lines on the Po – the very first that I perceive the public inclined to attend to any subject for the most injudicious trial of the Quean – sometime next month – & I will be glad know immediately if your Lordship have any alterations or additions – notes &c to add to it. The Tragedy shall be announced at the end of it & be published in December – and the other Pulci – <Dan> Rimini – Juan – on which <G> M’ Gifford is also making his remarks – at or about the

1:2

same time – subject always to your Lordships wishes & commands. The moment I go to town I will arrange with M’ Kinnaird & M’ Hobhouse the commercial part for these valuable commodities – If you would but yield to our united wishes about the Don Juans I could sell millions of them – & you would have the full enjoyment of fame arising from One of the finest poems in any language – in mine & the opinion of Many of the first critics – considering the variety of talent which it exhibits, it surpasses all your works – by the way Manfred stands very near the top – I am glad that your Lordship likes the plates for it, wch I really think Most beautiful & managed with great Skill.

There is one thing at which I am vexed to absolute rage – at the infamously impertinent lying passage in “Sketches from Italy” – had I been aware of it – I would have cut my throat so help me God I would rather than have published the work wch contains it – & now to explain why I did not know of it – the Author is a Lady of fortune & very agreeable – whom I made acquaintance with in Scotland – where her father has a beautiful estate at Kelso – she told me of this work & then has as a note: “I cannot but be flattered by finding, in some cases, a similarity between my own ideas and those so admirably expressed by his lordship in Childe Harold [sic] and Beppo. Except the above, I have not altered a single sentence I wrote while at Venice, though sensible that by doing so I lay myself open to the charge of plagiarism – a charge I can solemnly, and with the strictest truth, assert, would be wholly unfounded: nor can I have borrowed his ideas from conversation, since I repeatedly declined an introduction to him while in Italy (IV 159-60n). B. has an angry note on this at the end of Marino Faliero, which he regretted on learning the author’s sex.

121: Mu. refers to plates for DJ, not for Manfred.
122: Sketches Descriptive of Italy in the Years 1816, 1817, with a brief of Travels in various Parts of France and Switzerland in the same years (Murray, 4 vols 1820), by Miss E. A. Waldie, who writes of … that charming picture by Giorgione, of himself, his wife, and his son, so admirably described in the witty “Beppo” of Lord Byron, and then has as a note: “I cannot but be flattered by finding, in some cases, a similarity between my own ideas and those so admirably expressed by his lordship in Childe Harold [sic] and Beppo. Except the above, I have not altered a single sentence I wrote while at Venice, though sensible that by doing so I lay myself open to the charge of plagiarism – a charge I can solemnly, and with the strictest truth, assert, would be wholly unfounded: nor can I have borrowed his ideas from conversation, since I repeatedly declined an introduction to him while in Italy (IV 159-60n). B. has an angry note on this at the end of Marino Faliero, which he regretted on learning the author’s sex.
123: Miss E. A. Waldie.
her book from herself I promised – without seeing the MSS – a thing I never do to publish it – she sent
the MSS written in so cursed a hand that neither I nor any other person could decipher it – after
making all sorts of excuses for Six months – I though myself bound – thick & thin to send it to the
printers Devil – I wish it had gone to Hell – & he made it out – I read with Gifford the first quarter of
the volume & we liked it – let it go on without reading more – if we had I certainly should have
stopped – I have ordered every other Copy & I have sold very few – remaining to be cancelled – What
they chose to say of you in the Quarterly – I can not always prevent – but may the judgment of God fall
upon me if I would publish any work containing a line against one for whom independent of my
devoted affection for

1:3

his persevering friendship – I am on so many accounts under everlasting obligation – allow me to add
that your behaviour on all such points is truly noble – any other man would have done with his
publisher for ever for apparently so willful an act of ingratitude – but I think you will confide in the
truth of this explanation – I will at any rate send the note to you printed & then you will do as you
please – it must have been said in the thoughtlessness of vanity. – I will send no more works about Italy
– I was desirous of trying them upon you – Roses you will have liked – but the public does not – & I
have not yet got through an edition –

Lest I forget I will just say that your variations &c of lines in the Tragedy are all with Mr Gifford

You received did you the Paragraph about your arrival – you think my believing in its
possibility as absurd as the report – but it my doubt – arose from Hobhouse having told me some time
before that he had written earnestly soliciting your Lordships attendance at the Queen’s trial – a thing
wch I though extremely injudicious – but as the trial was raising the Dead I did not know what effect it
might have upon the fiery living.

Gifford, by the way, expresses his astonishment at the inconceivable purity of the Style of the
Tragedy – wch is extraordinary – breathing as you have done for so many years nothing but Italian.

Did you mean that I should print, with Rose’s consent, his beautiful lines to you? – he has made
progress in a translation of Ariosto – he has set up, to shew to friends, two Cantos – wch Gifford
& others very much like – he is getting in good health & was last winter – in great spirits – I have the
pleasure of seeing him continually – he continues y our fast admirer & friend

1:4

You are very liberal in your notice of Milman in the preface to the Doge – his stile in Jerusalem is very
beautiful – but every line is obviously laboured – whereas in your play – they flow on apparently
without effort. Your approbation of Matthews arrived most apropos – for he was with me yesterday
when I opened your Letter – are you that he is the brother of your amiable promising lost friend
Charles – & he himself I think known to you – his father one of the most accomplished & most
compleat gentle man – I ever met with has a beautiful estate in this neighbourhood – on the
banks of the enchanting Wye – he is the author of that unique effort of Wit – the paraphrase of Popes
Eloisa x to Abelard – wch Porson was so fond of & wch your Lordship can not but have read or heard –
if not I will try & send it – he is the translator of Fontaine – reviewed, without his most distant
suspicion, in the Quarterly – They think of drawing up a Memoir of Charles & Henry with
compliments solicits the favour of any recollections Letters &c that may suggest themselves to you –
Henry the author of the Tour – promises to make a figure at the Bar.

I thought you might not get a full account of the trial of the Queen and I therefore sent you the
Queens Magazine & I am happy in having done so. How it is to terminate the Devil alone who
instigated it – can tell – Brougham has as exhibited super human powers & deserves to win – if
the Queen succeed I think those ladies who have formerly been divorced from their Lords – have been
very ill used & ought to move for new trials – shewing as cause that they had not Brougham &
Denman for their advocates – & the Mob – for their judge – it has just occurred to me to get & send to
you the Lords Copy of the Trial wch contains diagrams of the Rooms &c

I am printing a new Edition of your Lordships works

entitled Eloisa en deshabillé

124: C.S.Matthews.
125: Note at page bottom refers to “Eloisa x to Abelard” above.
compressed into five small volumes – very beautifully – & I have engraved 22 new plates – from Westall's designs wch I will send in next parcel if not already sent – I am by no means satisfied with the designs for each of which I gave Twelve Guineas & for each engraving 25Gs – for the engravings of Juan I gave 40Gs each –

I am most happy to find that you approve of the engraving of the beautiful – as I hope you will one day see the original – of Ada – shall I send yr Lordship more Copies – & of Juan & for the Works – to give in presents.

I confess I joins in all yr regrets that a certain very important Revolution has not taken Place – for never was there more necessity for one – but a Revolution here were madness – it is utterly impossible in the nature of Mankind – that we could create a new one that has baffled ages & is yet the admiration of all Mankind.

With the sincerest wishes for your Lordships health – I remain ever My Lord your Lordships grateful faithful & affectionate Servant & friend

John Murray

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, October 16th 1820:
(Source: Ms. not found; text from Moore's Life II 355; LJ V 98-9; BLJ VII 204)

Ravenna, 8bre 16°, 1820.

The Abbot has just arrived; many thanks; as also for the Monastery—when you send it!!!

The Abbot will have a more than ordinary interest for me, for an ancestor of mine by the mother's side, Sir J. Gordon of Gight, the handsomest of his day, died on a scaffold at Aberdeen for his loyalty to Mary, of whom he was an imputed paramour as well as her relation. His fate was much commented on in the Chronicles of the times. If I mistake not, he had something to do with her escape from Loch Leven, or with her captivity there. But this you will know better than I.

I recollect Loch Leven as it were but yesterday. I saw it in my way to England in 1798, being then ten years of age. My mother, who was as haughty as Lucifer with her descent from the Stuarts, and her right line from the old Gordons, not the Seyton Gordons, as she disdainfully termed the ducal branch, told me the story, always reminding me how superior her Gordons were to the southern Byrons, notwithstanding our Norman, and always masculine descent, which has never lapsed into a female, as my mother's Gordons had done in her own person.

I have written to you so often lately, that the brevity of this will be welcome. Yours, &c.

Murray to Byron, from 50, Albemarle Street, London, October 24th 1820:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43496; LJM 350-1)

London Octr. 24 1820

My dear Lord

Upon my return on Saturday I found your Lordships most gratifying Letters with inclosures of the 28th Sep’ and they were really cordials to me for I feared that my long silence from the causes stated in my last must have offended you. –

As to the Satire it is one of the most superlative things that ever was written – I hastened with it the next morning to M' Gifford I put it into his hand without saying a word – and I thought he would have died with extacy – he thinks that if it do not surpass it at least equals anything that you have written & that there is nothing more perfect of its kind in the language – he knew the Portrait as readily as if the Person had been before him – This is certainly your natural talent and you should improve it Into a Classical Standard series of Satires – & be at once Persius – Juvenal – Boileau & our own Pope – it betrays a knowledge of human nature – as well as identity of character that

1:2

126: Question and Answer.
127: Rogers.
is amazing – If you could do this upon a plan not of selecting individuals but general Character Manners &c – you would do a national Service – <it> this & the purity of your language in the Tragedy shew you to be in the most unabated & powerful command of intellect – I will give no one a Copy of this upon any account not allow it to go out of my sight – once or twice since when I have been alone with Gifford I have taken it out & it operates like a cordial – Today I met M’ Kinnaird & I brought him home to read it & he was as much astonished & delighted as we had been – I told him not to speak of it – to Hobhouse I will also shew it – & to one more – Ward – but he shall call for it to read it in his chaise as he goes to the Continent – for I will not trust him with such a marketable commodity otherwise – in a word it is exquisite – the Person is behaving very well just now & I am under obligations for his allowing me the honour of being his publisher & I trust therefore you will not allow another Copy to escape – for in all his conversations with me of late he speaks with unfeigned honour of you –

You are the Prince of all – with all that has occurred since you wrote – none has come half way up the hill to you –

You are very noble in your treatment of the poor Authoress, I see by this days paper that she was married at Kelso last week – I have sent you your own Lords Copy of the Queens trial with one or two new things – “Essays on Men & Manners by a Gentleman who has left his Lodgings” – is written by Lord John Russell – Hope was here today & is much gratified by your approbation of Anastasius – I am glad you like Mitchell – do you like the Sketch Book – & Knickerbockers New York – I inclose the first Sheet of the Tragedy with M’ Giffords remarks – & others

1:3

With Compliments I remain Most dear Sir Your Lordships admiring & faithful Servant

John Murray

Is there anything but tinsel in Keate’s – Cornwall & Croly pray tell me – Have you no answer from Torwalstein

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, October 25th 1820:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43490; LJ V 106; BLJ VII 212)
[No address.]

Ravenna. 8b. 25º. 1820.

Dr Moray –

Pray forward the enclosed to Lady Byron, it is on business. – – –

In thanking you for the Abbot I made four grand mistakes. – Sir John Gordon was not of Gight – but of Bogagicht – and a Son of Huntley’s. – He suffered – not for his loyalty – but in an insurrection. – He had nothing to do with Loch Leven having died been dead some time at the time of the Queen’s confinement. – And 4th. I am not sure that he was the Queen’s paramour or no – for Robertson does not allude to this – though Walter Scott does – in the list she gives of her admirers (as unfortunate) at the close of “the Abbot”.

I must have made all these mistakes in recollecting my Mother’s account of the matter – although She was more accurate than I am – being precise upon points of genealogy like all the Aristocratical Scotch.

She had a long list of of the Xxxx of Gight – none of whom are to be found in the old Scotch Chronicles – Spalding &c. in arms & doing mischief. I remember well passing Loch Leven as well as the Queen’s Ferry – – we were on our way to England in 1798. – – –

128: Miss E. A. Waldie, attacked in the notes to Marino Faliero.

129: B. to Lady Byron, October 25th 1820.

130: “Look – look at him well,” said the Queen, “thus has it been with all who loved Mary Stewart! – The royalty of Francis, the wit of Chastelar, the power and gallantry of the gay Gordon, the melody of Rizzio, the portly form and youthful grace of Darnley, the bold address and courtly manners of Bothwell – and now the deep-devoted passion of the noble Douglas – nought could save them! – they looked on the wretched Mary, and to have loved her was crime enough to deserve early death!” (Scott, The Abbot, Chap.37).
Why do the papers call Hobhouse young? he is a year and a half older than I am – and I was thirty two last January. –
Of Italy I can say nothing by the post – we are in instant expectation of the Barbarians passing the Po – and then – there will be a row of fury & extermination. – Pray write sometimes – the communications will not long be so open.
y[scrawl]
P.S. – Send me the Monastery
and some Soda powders –
You had better not publish Blackwood &
the Roberts prose except what regards
Pope – you have let the time
slip by. –

Murray to Byron, from 50, Albemarle Street, London, October 27th 1820:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43496; LJM 354-6)
[Milord / Milord Byron / poste restante / Ravenna / Italie // stamped: FORLI 16 NOV]
Murray answers Byron’s of October 6th and 8th.

Dear Lord Byron,
You have made me compleatly happy in the receipt of your kind & interesting Letters of Oct’ 6 & 8 which arrived yesterday & the day before –

What you say as to the want of selection in the books which I send you is true – but it has not been occasioned by my bad taste – the Poems are all of them at least Keates Croly &c by a set of fellows who are everlastingly blowing themselves into notoriety & you will find in the last Edinb. Review that Jeffry has allowed some of them to be praised there – <and> the fact is I sent these to you on purpose to provoke your contempt & give you memoranda for a new Baviad wch we very much need to flap away a nest of pretenders – – I have written to M’ Hobhouse for the “Hints from Horace” which with the novelty which you will probably throw over it will make a very servisable as well as a very interesting poem – There is the English Bards printing over & over again in Dublin & circulating in a way by poor wretches in the Country that prevents the law from stopping it – – I much approve of your intention to preserve in notes to the Hints all that you have so manfully & judiciously said about Pope – It will come a propos for there is a great dis

1:2
cussion upon his merits going on now – & Bowles who in his own edition of Pope so shamefully abused him is now furious at an article upon this subject which appeared in the last Quarterly – Gifford is very warmly on your side – by way he a little resembles Pope in character – I wish you may have Bowless edition by you that you may see fairly what he there said & to prevent you <ju> from judging merely from his pamphlet to Campbell –

Kinnaird has promissed to send me the beautiful lines on the Po

I am glad that my shewing the Tragedy to Foscolo has met with your approbation & I thought his opinion warm critical & just – he is a fine fellow whom I am most anxious to serve – The Tragedy is now with Hobhouse & I have urged him for his opinion

I could upon no account put the authors name to Don Juan for in this strange state of law & the abuse of human intellect – the result which you apprehend might be produced – I saw M” Leigh yesterday who is pretty well – though much over occupied – with making Cloaths – nursing – educating & tending her numerous family – she told me that both Sir Ralph & Lady Noel are exceedingly ill and that she apprehends a catastrophe in that quarter soon – Lady Byron has lately lost one of her Maid servants in Typhus fever – but her <&>Ladyship <had> and the little Girl had escaped it altogether – I could not have supposed until you

1:3

pointed it out, the frequent occurrence in the olden time of Ada – Cap’ Byron had before described to me your hunting it out on hands & knees – from your own Pedigree – – I am rather surprised that however contemptuously you may justly estimate the Sign Post Face of the Earl of Huntingdon – that you have not been amused with the Book – which his thoughts remarkably interesting.
I am glad that you like the Sketch Book – it is the production of an American named Irving – the best specimen of American talents with manners yet floated to this Country – He is likewise the Author of Knickerbockers New York a work wch will be to America – what Quixote is to Spain & Hudibras to England – pray tell me if you like it –

I inclose a revise of the preface – wch I received from you the day before yesterday – I have added to it one or two notes received a little time ago – I shall get another sheet of the Tragedy with Giffords remarks tomorrow.

The report of this day is that the House of Lords confident that the Bill of Pains &c\[131\] will be rejected by the Commons are jealous of the honour of it & will therefore throw it out themselves – Lord Liverpool to resign – Lord Castlereagh!!!! to succeed him as prime Minister – the Duke of Wellington

1:4 [above address:] to be Secretary of State –

a First Copy of the Monastery was sent you P\^ Coach June 2 – with Edgeworths Memoirs – Forman (a wild novel) & the Life of Camoens – have you received none of these? a Second Copy of the Monastery Sep 30 – the [below address:] moment you said you had not got it – Poor Wait the Dentist died a few days ago – I sent the Abbot Sep 4 – Kennelworth by the same author is printing – <your> {the} persevering kindness of your interesting Letters render me more than ever Dear Lord Byron

your grateful friend Jno Murray

**Murray to Byron, from 50, Albemarle Street, London, November 3rd 1820:**

(Source: text from NLS Ms.43496; LJM 360-1)

[Milord Byron / poste restante / Ravenna / Italie // stamped: FOLRI 23 NOV]

**Murray answers Byron’s of October 16th.**

London Nov\^e. 3. 1820

Dear Lord Byron

I now incluse other sheets of the Tragedy wch M^r Gifford left with me today – he told me besides particularly to say that his high opinion of it is more than confirmed by a second & more attentive perusal –

Your Lordships Letter of the 16\(^{th}\) October reached me the day before yesterday in company with one for Hobhouse to whom I have written to announce it <\&> as his residence is uncertain.\[132\] I am glad that you have got the Abbot – but that you should not have received either of the Copies of the Monastery is surprising & vexatious – being the only parcels wch have miscarried – you shall have another copy with Soda powders P^r next parcel –

I have not yet received the “Hints” from M^r Hobhouse who tells me that he is radicalizing at Battle Abbey\[133\] – but I sent him your Letter yesterday and I fancy he will be on town in a day or two – I begin to think that it may be better when you finish the “Hints” to put forth 2 Vols 8\(^{vo}\) at once wch will surprise by Variety as well as excellence rather than make repeated calls upon public attention by reiterated publications of each work separately The Volumes will then consist of

\[
\begin{align*}
&\text{The Doge} & \text{Pulci} \\
&\text{Dante} & \text{Italian} \\
&\text{Po} & \text{Hints from Horace} \\
&\text{Rimini} \\
\end{align*}
\]

Will your Lordship approve of this? they will form a very interesting Work –

I send in a Cover the translation of the Italian Prose which has been made with much care by a

1:2

a gentleman\[134\] in high esteem here for very great talents & it is done by him con amore proud of any thing that associates <wi/>him with you.

Captain Parry, from the Polar Expedition was with me hesterday, he has been most fortunate in his Discoveries having saild compleatly through what was sworn to be Mountains by Capt Ross – but wch Parry found to be an open sea Forty Miles broad. They witered Eleven Months in a newly discovered

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131: The bill against Queen Caroline. It was abandoned.
132: On this day H. is travelling with Sir Francis Burdett between Ramsbury and Witney.
133: H. was at a house party at Battle Abbey in Sussex, with radical Whigs including the Duke of Sussex.
134: Francis Cohen.
uninhabited Island where they amused themselves with acting Plays – writing periodical papers & were as happy as possible the Cold 74 degrees below our freezing point – In another year, by taking a different latitude, he thinks he might succeed in penetrating the Behrens Straits – I have got his Narrative which is most uncommonly interesting 135

Yesterday the Lords divided with the Small Majority of 28 in favour of the Second Reading – This day the Degradation part without alteration has compleatly passed Nem Con – She 136 is going abroad again –

I remain Dear Lord Byron
your Lordships
faithful Serv’t
Jno Murray

[1:3 blank.]  

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, November 4th 1820:  
(Source: text from B.L.Ashley 5160; LJ V 107-10; QII 532-3; BLJ VII 216-18)  

Byron’s second letter abusing Keats.  
[To Jno Murray Esqre / 50 Albemarle Street / London / Angleterre / Inghilterra]  

Ravenna, 9bre 4th. 1820.

I have received from M‘. Galignani the enclosed letters – duplicates – and receipts –which will explain themselves. – – As the poems are your property by purchase [right & justice] all conditions of publication &c. &c. are for you to decide upon. – I know not how far my compliance with M‘. G.’s request might be legal, and I doubt that it would [not] be honest. – – –

In case you choose to arrange with <th> him – I enclose the <pxxxxxxx> {permits} to you & in so doing {I} wash my hands of the business {altogether. –} I sign them merely to enable you to exert {my} power you <say> {justly} possess; more properly. – I will have nothing to do with it further; except in my answer to M‘. Galignani – to state that the <xxxxxxx> 137 {letters} <care/>&c. &c. are sent to you & the causes thereof. – – – – –

If you can check those foreign Pirates – do; if not – put the <pxxxxxxx> 138 {permissive} papers on the fire; – I can have no view no object whatever but to secure to you your property –

yrs
Byron

P.S.

There will be – shortly – “the Devil to pay” here – and as there is no saying that I may not form an Item in his bill – I shall not now write at greater length; you have not answered my late letters; and [you] have acted foolishly – as you will find out some day. – –

1:2

P.S. I have read {part of} the Quarterly {<th>just arrived}. – M‘ Bowles shall be answered – he is not quite correct in his statement {about E. B & S. R. – They Support Pope I see in the Quarterly {Let them} Continue to do so – it is a Sin & a Shame and a damnation – to think that Pope!! should require it – but he does. – – –

Those miserable mountebanks of the day – the poets – disgrace themselves – and <deny> {deny} God – in running down Pope – the most faultless of Poets, and almost of men – – the Edinburgh praises Jack Keats or Ketch or whatever his names are; – {why his is} – – the Onanism of Poetry = something like the Pleasure an Italian fiddler extracted out of being suspended daily by a Street Walker [in Drury Lane] – this went on for some weeks – at last the Girl – went to get a pint of Gin – met another, chatted too long – and Cornelli was hanged outright before she returned. Such [like] is the trash they praise – and such will be the end of the outstretched poesy of this miserable Self=polluter of the human Mind [untranscribable scrawl]

[beneath address:] W. Scott’s Monastery just arrived – – many thanks for that Grand Desideratum of the last Six Months. – –

2:1 [this, though marked “P.S.”, seems a separate letter from the above]

135: See TVOJ, 27, 5-8.
136: Queen Caroline; in fact, she dies,
137: A very heavy erasure.
138: Another very heavy erasure.
P.S. You have cut up old Edgeworth it seems amongst you. – You are right – he is a bore. – – I met the whole batch – M. M. & Miss at a blue breakfast of Lady Davy’s in Blue Square – and he proved but bad – in taste and tact & decent breeding. – – He began by saying that Parr (D. Parr) had attacked – & that <the> he (the father of Miss E) had cut him up in his answer. – Now Parr would have annihilated him – & if he had not – why tell us (a long story) who wanted to breakfast? – I saw them different times in different parties – & I thought him a very tiresome coarse old Irish half and half Gentleman – and her a pleasant reserved old woman – with a pencil under her petticoat – however – undisturbed in it’s operation by the vicinity of that anatomical part of <the> female humanity – which would have rendered the taking notes neutral or partial in any other [She] animal above a Cow. – That sort of woman seem to think themselves perfect because they can’t get <f> covered; & those who are seem no better for it – the <xxxxxxx> [spayed] bitches. – – – [untranscribable scrawl]

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, November 9th 1820:  
(Source: text from B.L.Ashley 5161; LJ V 113-18; QII 533-7; BLJ VII 223-6)  
Byron’s third letter abusing Keats. He also abuses Hobhouse and reminisces about C.S.Matthews. He answers Murray’s of October 24th.

Dear Moray –

The talent you approve {of} is an amiable one and as you say might prove “a national <advantage> {Service}” but unfortunately I must be angry with a man before I draw his real portrait – and I can’t deal in “generals” so that I trust never to have provocation enough to make a Gallery. – If “the person”139 – had not by many little dirty sneaking traits provoked it – I should have been silent – though I had observed him. Here follows an alteration. – Put –

“Devil, with such delights in damning,
That if at the resurrection
Unto him the free selection
Of his future could be given –
‘Would be rather Hell than Heaven. -”140

That is to say if these new lines do not {too much} lengthen out & weaken the amiability of the original thought & expression. – You have discretionary power about showing. – I should think that Croker and D’Israeli would not disbelieve a sight of these light little humourous things – and may be indulged now & then. – – D’Israeli wrote the article on Spence – I know him by the mark in his mouth – I am glad that the Quarterly has had so much Classical honesty and honour as to insert it – it is good & true. – – Hobhouse writes me a facetious letter about my indolence – and love of Slumber. – It becomes him – he is in active life – he writes pamphlets against Canning to which he does not put his name – he gets into Newgate – and into Parliament – both honourable places of refuge – and he “greatly daring dines”141 at all the taverns – (why didn’t he <take> {set up} a tap {room} at once?) and then – writes to quiz my laziness. – – Why I do like one or two vices to be sure – but I can back a horse and fire a pistol without “winking or blinking” like Major Sturgeon142 – have <gone> {fed at times for} two months together on <sheer biscuit & water>143 (<no> {without} metaphor) I can get over <forty> {<for> seventy or eighty} miles a day riding post {and swim five at a Stretch taking a piece before & after} {as at Venice in 1818} or at least I could do {& have done} once & I never was <ten> {ten} minutes in my life over a solitary dinner. – Now my friend

Hobhouse – when we were wayfaring men used to complain grievously of hard beds & <animal> {sharp insects} – while I slept like a top – and to awaken me with his swearing at them – he used to damn his dinners {daily} both quality & cookery and quantity – & reproach me for a sort of “brutal” indifference as he called it to these particulars – & now he writes me facetious sneerings because I do

139: Rogers; B. has sent Mu. Question and Answer.
140: Question and Answer, penultimate section.
141: Pope, Dunciad IV 318.
143: The rest of this side is a mess of erasures and interlineations.
not get up early in a morning – when there is no occasion – if there were – he knows that I was always out of bed before him – though it is true that my ablutions detained me longer in dressing – than his noble contempt for that “oriental scrupulosity,” permitted. – Then he is still sore about “the ballad” – he!! why he lampooned me at Brighton in 1808 – about Jackson the boxer and bold Webster &c. – in 1809 – he turned the death of my friend E. Long into ridicule (& rhyme) because <it> his name was susceptible of a pun – and although he saw that I was distressed at it – before I left England in 1816 – – he wrote rhymes upon D. Kinnaird – you – and myself – and at Venice he parodied the lines “when [Though] the day of my destiny’s over” – in a comfortable quizzing way – and now he harps on my ballad about his election! – Pray tell him all this – for I will have no underhand work with my <xxxx> “old Cronies”. – If he can deny the facts let him. – I maintain that he is more carnivorously & sensual than I am – though I am bad enough too for that matter – but not in eating & haranguing at the Crown and Anchor – where I never was but twice – and those were at “Whore’s Hops” when I was a younker, {in my teens;} and Egad – I think them the most respectable meetings of the two. – – But he is a little wroth that I would not come over to the Quim’s [BLJ has “Queen’s”, and so does the Ashley transcription] trial – lazy – quotha! – it is so true that he should be ashamed of ascertaining it. {<against the more temperate of the two, although he>} – – He counsels me not to “get into a scrape” but

1:3

as Beau Clincher says – “How melancholy are Newgate reflections!” To be sure his advice is worth following – for experience teacheth – he has been in a dozen within these last two years. – – I <assert> (pronounce) me the more temperate of the two.

Have you gotten “the Hints” yet? – – I know Henry Matthews – he is the image to the very voice of his brother Charles only darker – his laugh his in particular – the first time I ever met him was in Scrope Davies’s rooms after his brother’s death – and I nearly dropped – thinking that it was his Ghost. – {I have also dined with him in his rooms at <The> King’s College} – – Hobhouse << once proposed a similar memoir – but I am afraid that the letters of <his> {Charles’s} correspondence with me (which are at Whitton with my other papers) would hardly do for the public – for our lives were not over <<xxxx>> {strict} & our letters somewhat lax upon most subjects. – – His Superiority over all his contemporaries was quite indisputable and acknowledged – none of us ever thought of being at all near Matthews – – and yet there were some high men of his standing – Bankes – Bob Milnes – Hobhouse – Bailey – and many others – without numbering {the} mere Academical men – of whom we hear little out of the University – & whom he beat hollow on their own Ground. – – His gaining the Downing Fellowship – was the completest thing of the kind ever known. He carried off both declamation prizes – in short he did whatever he chose. – He was three or four years my Senior but I lived a good deal with him latterly & with his friends. – – He wrote to me the very day of his death (I believe) or at least a day before – if not the very day. – –

He meant to have stood for the University Membership. – – He was a very odd & humorous fellow besides – – and spared nobody – for instance walking out <at> {in} Newstead {Garden} he stopped at Boatswain’s monument {inscribed} “Here lies Boatswain a Dog” &c. – and then observing a blank marble tablet on the other side – “so – (says he) there is room for another friend – and I propose that the inscription be “Here lies H—bh—se a Pig” &c. – – you may as well not let this transpire to the worthy member – lest he regard neither his dead

1:4

friend nor his living one with his wonted Suavity. – – –

Rose’s lines must be at his own option – I can have no objection to their publication. – Pray salute him from me. – –

M‘. Keats’s whose poetry you enquire after – appears to me what I have already said; – such writing is a sort of mental masturbation – he is always f—g g—g his Imagination. – I don’t mean that he is indecent but viciously soliciting his own ideas into a state which is neither poetry nor any thing else but a Bedlam vision produced by raw pork and opium. – – Barry Cornwall would write well if he would let himself. – – Croly is superior to <these> {many} – but seems to think himself inferior to Nobody. – Last week I sent you a correspondence with Galignani and some documents on your property. – – You

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144: Johnson, Life of Swift.
145: My Boy Hobbie-O.
146: None of the forementioned lampoons by H. are known.
147: Farquhar, The Constant Couple, V ii.
have now I think an opportunity of checking – or at least limiting those French re-publications. – – You may let all your authors publish what they please against me or mine – a publisher is not & cannot be responsible for the works that issue <your> from his printer’s. – – – –

The “White Lady of Avenel”[148] is not {quite} so good as a real well authenticated (“Donna bianca”) White Lady of Collalto – a spectre in the [Marca] Trivigiana – who has been repeatedly seen – there is a man {a huntsman} now alive who saw her also Hopner could tell you all about her – & so can Rose perhaps. – – –

I myself have no doubt of the fact – historical & spectral. She always appeared <at> {on} particular occasions – before the deaths of the family &c. &c. I heard M. Benzone say that she knew a Gentleman who had seen her cross <the> [his] room at Collalto Castle. – Hoppner saw [ & spoke with] the Huntsman who met her at the Chase – and never hunted afterwards. – She was a Girl attendant – who one day dressing the hair of a Countess Collalto – was seen <before> [by her] mistress to smile upon her husband in the Glass. – <She> [The Countess] had her shut up in the wall of the Castle like Constance de Beverley.[149] – Ever after she haunted them & all the Colaltos. – She is described as very beautiful – & fair. – It is well authenticated.

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, November 18th 1820:

Dear Moray –

The death of Waite[150] is a shock to the – teeth as well as [to] the feelings of all who knew him. – Good God! – he and Blake[151] – both gone! – I left them {both} in the most robust health – and little thought of the national loss in so short a time as five years. – They were both so much superior to Wellington in rational greatness as he who preserves the hair – & the teeth – is preferable to “the bloody blustering booby” who gains a name by breaking heads & knocking out grinders – – Who succeeds him? where is tooth powder? mild & yet efficacious – where is tincture? where are [cleansing] roots and brushes now to be obtained? – Pray obtain what information you call upon these “Tusculum questions” –[152] – my Jaws ache to think on’t. – Poor fellows! I anticipated seeing {both} – & yet they are <both> gone to that place where both teeth and hair last longer than they do in this life – I have seen <for> a thousand graves opened – and always perceived that whatever was gone – the teeth and hair remained of those who had died with them. – – –

Is not this odd? – they go the very first {things} in youth – & {yet} last the longest in {the} dust – if people will but die to preserve them? – It is a queer life – and a queer death – that of mortals. – – –

Then he was such a delight – such a Coxcomb – such a Jewel of a Man – – there is a taylor at Bologna so like him – and also at the top of his profession. – –

1:2

Do not neglect this commission – who or what can replace him? – what says the public? – – –

I remand you the preface – don’t forget that the Italian extract from the Chronicle must be translated. With regard to what you say <of> [of retouching] the Juans – and the Hints – it is all very well – but I can’t furbish. – I am like the tyger (in poesy) if I miss my first Spring – I go growling back to my Jungle. – There is no second. – I can’t correct – I can’t – & I won’t. – Nobody ever succeeds in it great or small. – Tasso remade the whole of his Jerusalem but who ever reads that version? – all the world goes to the first. – Pope added to the “Rape of the Lock” – but did not reduce it. – – –

You must take my things as they happen to be – if they are not likely to suit – {reduce their} estimate them accordingly – –

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148: In Scott’s The Monastery.
149: In Scott’s Marmion.
150: The London dentist.
151: The Fleet Street hairdresser.
152: After Cicero’s Tusculan Disputations.
153: Shakespeare, Hamlet V i 90 (“Mine ache to think on’t”).
I would rather give them away than hack & hew them. – I don’t say that you are not right – I merely assert that I can not better them. – I <either> must either “make a spoon or spoil a horn”. – – – And there’s an end. – – – – – – –

The parcel of the second of June – with the late Edgeworth – & so forth – has never arrived – parcels of a later date have – of which I have given you my opinions in late letters. – – – I remind you what I think a Catholic curiosity – the Pope’s brief – authenticating the body of Saint Francis of Assisi, – a town on the road to Rome. – – – yrs. ever

[scrawl]

P.S. Of the praises of that little dirty blackguard Keates in the Edinburgh – I shall observe as Johnson did when Sheridan the actor got a pension. “What has he got a pension? then it is time that I should give up mine!”154 – Nobody could be prouder of the praises of the Edinburgh than I was – or more alive to their censure – as I showed in E. B. and S. Rs. – at present all the men they have ever praised are degraded by that insane article. – Why don’t they review & praise “Solomon’s Guide to Health” it is better sense – and as much poetry as Johnny Keates.

[sideways:]

Bowles must be bowled down – ’tis a sad match at Cricket – if that fellow can get any Notches at Pope’s expense. – – – If he once gets into “Lord’s Ground” (to continue the pun because it is foolish) I think I could beat him in one Innings. – – You had not known perhaps – that I was once – (not metaphorically but really) a good Cricketer – particularly in batting – and [1] played in the Harrow match against the Etomians in 1805, gaining more notches (as one of our <best> {chosen} Eleven) than any except L’d. Ipswich & Brookman on our side. – – – – –

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, November 23rd 1820:

(By: text from NLS Ms.43490; LJ V 128; BLJ VII 238-9)

[T]o, John Murray Esqre. / 50. Albemarle Street. / London. / Angleterre. / Inghilterra.]

Byron answers Murray’s of November 3rd.

Ravenna. 9b^6. 23.° 1820.

Dear Moray –

There have arrived – the preface – the translation – the first sixteen pages – also from page sixty {five} to ninety six – but no intermediate sheets – from y’h. sixteenth to sixty fifth page. – I apprize you of this – in case any such shall have been sent. – I hope that the printer will perfectly understand where to insert some three or four additional lines – which M. Gifford has had the goodness to copy out in his own hand. – – The translation is extremely well done and I beg to present my thanks & respects to M. Cohen for his time and trouble. – The old Chronicle Style is far better done – than I could have done it – some of the old words are past the understanding {even} of the present Italians. – Perhaps if Foscolo was to cast a glance over it – he could rectify such – or confirm them. – Your two volume won’t do; – the first is very well – but the second must be anonymous – & the first with the name – which would make a confusion – or an identity – both of which ought to be avoided. – – You had better put – the Doge – Dante – &<. into one volume, – and bring out the other soon afterwards – but not on the same day. – – The “Hints” Hobhouse says will require a good deal of slashing – to suit the times – which – will be a work of time – for I don’t feel at all laborious just now. – Whatever effect they are to have – would perhaps be greater in a separate form, and they all must have my name to them. – Now if you publish them in the same volume with “Don Juan” – they identify Don Juan as mine – which I don’t think worth a Chancery Suit about

my daughter’s guardianship; – as in your present code – a facetious poem – is sufficient to take away a man’s rights over his family. – – – – – –

I regret to hear that the Queen has been so treated <by> {on} the second reading of the bill. – – – – Of the state of things here – it would be difficult & not very prudent to speak {at large} – the Huns opening all letters – I wonder if they can read them when they have opened them? – if so they may see

154: Boswell’s Life of Johnson.
155: From Muratori’s Rerum Italicum Scriptores, Appendix I to Marino Faliero.
in my most legible hand – that I think them damned Scoundrels and Barbarians, – their Emperor a fool – & themselves more fools than he – <and> all which they may send to Vienna – for anything I care. –

They have got themselves masters of the Papal police and are bullying away, – but some day or other they will pay for all. – It may not be [very] soon – because these unhappy Italians have no union, nor consistency [among themselves;] but I suppose that Providence will get tired of them at last – & show that God is not an Austrian.

yrs. ever truly

[scrawl]

P.S. – I enclosed a letter to you for Lady B. on business some time ago did you receive and forward it? –

Adopt Mr. Gifford’s alterations in the proofs.

[1:3 blank.]

November 27th 1820: Byron finishes Don Juan Canto V.

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, December 10th 1820:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43490; LJ V 137; BLJ VII 250)
[Tó, John Murray Esq. / 50. Albemarle Street. / London / Angleterre, / Inghilterra.]

R°. 10°. 10°. 1820

D°. M.

I wrote to you by last post. – Acknowledge that and this letter – which you are requested to forward immediately. – – – – –

yrs. truly

[scrawl]

I have finished a fifth Canto of D.J. 143 Stanzas –
So prepare. – – – – –

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, November 19th 1820:
(Source: Ms. not found: text from LJ V 121-8; QII 538-43; BLJ VII 230-4)

Longer reflections on C.S.Matthews; Byron is still responding to Murray’s of October 16th. He is clearly writing not for Murray but for posterity.

Ravenna, 9bre 19, 1820

Dear Murray, – What you said of the late Charles Skinner Matthews has set me to my recollections; but I have not been able to turn up anything which would do for the purpose of his brother, even if he had previously done enough during his life to sanction the introduction of anecdotes so merely personal. He was, however, a very extraordinary man, and would have been a great one. No one ever succeeded in a more surpassing degree than he did as far as he went. He was indolent, too; but whenever he stripped, he overthrew all antagonists. His conquests will be found registered at Cambridge, particularly his Downing one, which was hotly and highly contested, and yet easily won. Hobhouse was his most intimate friend, and can tell you more of him than any man. William Bankes also a great deal. I myself recollect more of his oddities than of his academical qualities, for we lived most together at a very idle period of my life. When I went up to Trinity, in 1805, at the age of seventeen and a half, I was miserable and untoward to a degree. I was wretched at leaving Harrow, to which I had become attached during the two last years of my stay there; wretched at going to Cambridge instead of Oxford (there were no rooms vacant at Christchurch); wretched from some private domestic circumstances of different kinds, and consequently about as unsocial as a wolf taken from the troop. So that, although I knew Matthews, and met him often then at Bankes’s (who was my collegiate pastor, and master,156 and patron,) and at Rhode’s, Milnes’s, Price’s, Dick’s, Macnamara’s, Farrell’s, Gally Knight’s, and others of that set of contemporaries, yet I was neither intimate with him nor with any one else, except my old schoolfellow Edward Long (with whom I used to pass the day in riding and swimming), and William Bankes, who was good-naturedly tolerant of my ferocities.

156: Compare (Bankes again); (Gentleman John Jackson); (Father Pascal Aucher).
It was not till 1807, after I had been upwards of a year away from Cambridge, to which I had returned again to reside for my degree, that I became one of Matthew’s familiars, by means of Hobhouse, who, after hating me for two years, because I wore a white hat, and a grey coat, and rode a grey horse (as he says himself), took me into his good graces because I had written some poetry. I had always lived a good deal, and got drunk occasionally, in their company—but now we became really friends in a morning. Matthews, however, was not at this period resident in College. I met him chiefly in London, and at uncertain periods at Cambridge. Hobhouse, in the mean time, did great things: he founded the Cambridge “Whig Club” (which he seems to have forgotten), and the “Amicable Society,” which was dissolved in consequence of the members constantly quarrelling, and made himself very popular with “us youth,” and no less formidable to all tutors, professors, and Heads of Colleges. William Bankes was gone; while he stayed, he ruled the roast—or rather the roasting—and was father of all mishaps.

Matthews and I, meeting in London, and elsewhere, became great cronies. He was not good tempered—not am I—but with a little tact his temper was manageable, and I thought him so superior a man, that I was willing to sacrifice something to his humours, which were often, at the same time, amusing and provoking. What became of his papers (and he certainly had many), at the time of his death, was never known. I mention this by the way, fearing to ship it over, and as he wrote remarkably well, both in Latin and English. We went down to Newstead together, where I had got a famous cellar, and Monks’ dresses from a masquerade warehouse. We were a company of some seven or eight, with an occasional neighbour or so for visiters, and used to sit up late in our friars’ dresses, drinking burgundy, claret, champagne, and what not, out of the skull-cup, and all sorts of glasses, and buffooning all around the house, in our conventual garments. Matthews always denominated me “the Abbot,” and never called me by any other name in his good humours, to the day of his death. The harmony of these our symposia was somewhat interrupted, a few days after our assembling, by Matthews’s threatening to throw Hobhouse out of a window, in consequence of I know not what commerce of jokes ending in this epigram. Hobhouse called to me and said, that “his respect and regard for me as host would not permit him to call out any of my guests, and that he should go to town next morning.” He did. It was in vain that I represented to him that the window was not high, and that the turf under it was particularly soft. Away he went.

Matthews and myself had travelled down from London together, talking all the way incessantly upon one single topic. When we got to Loughborough, I know not what chasm had made its diverge for as ever to the very end. He had previously occupied, during my year’s absence from Cambridge, my rooms in Trinity, with the furniture; and Jones, the tutor, in his odd way, had said, on putting him in,
were the greatest friends possible, agreed, for a whim, to walk together to town. They quarrelled by the way, and actually walked the latter half of the journey, occasionally passing and repassing, without speaking. When Matthews had got to Highgate, he had spent all his money but three-pence half-penny, and determined to spend that also in a pint of beer, which I believe he was drinking before a public house, as Hobhouse passed him (still without speaking) for the last time on their route. They were reconciled in London again.

One of Matthew’s passions was “the fancy;” and he sparred uncommonly well. But he always got beaten in rows, or combats with the bare fist. In swimming, too, he swam well; but with effort and labour, and too high out of the water; so that Scrope Davies and myself, of whom he was therein somewhat emulous, always told him that he would be drowned if ever he came to a difficult pass in the water. He was so; but surely Scrope and myself would have been most heartily glad that

“the Dean had lived.
And our prediction proved a lie.”

His head was uncommonly handsome, very like what Pope’s was in his youth.

His voice, and laugh, and features, are strongly resembled by his brother Henry’s, if Henry be he of King’s College. His passion for boxing was so great, that he actually wanted me to match him with Dogherty (whom I had backed and made the match for against Tom Belcher), and I saw them spar together at my own lodgings with the gloves on. As he was bent upon it, I would have backed Dogherty to please him, but the match went off. It was of course to have been a private fight, in a private room.

On one occasion, being too late to go home and dress, he was equipped by a friend (Mr. Baillie, I believe,) in a magnificently fashionable and somewhat exaggerated shirt and neckcloth. He proceeded to the Opera, and took his station in Fop’s Alley. During the interval between the opera and the ballet, an acquaintance took his station by him and saluted him: “Come round,” said Matthews, “come round.” – “Why should I come round?” said the other; “you have only to turn your head – I am close by you.” – “That is exactly what I cannot do,” said Matthews; “don’t you see the state I am in?” pointing to his buckram shirt collar and inflexible cravat, – and there he stood with his head always in the same perpendicular position during the whole spectacle.

One evening, after dining together, as we were going to the Opera, I happened to have a spare Opera ticket (as subscriber to a box), and presented it to Matthews. “Now, sir,” said he to Hobhouse afterwards, “this I call courteous in the Abbot – another man would never have thought that I might do better with half a guinea than throw it to a door-keeper; – but here is a man not only asks me to dinner, but gives me a ticket for the theatre.” These were only his oddities, for no man was more liberal, or more honourable in all his doings and dealings, than Matthews. He gave Hobhouse and me, before we set out for Constantinople, a most splendid entertainment, to which we did ample justice. One of his fancies was dining at all sorts of out-of-the-way places. Somebody popped upon him in I know not what coffee-house in the Strand – and what do you think was the attraction? Why, that he paid a shilling (I think) to dine with his hat on. This he called his “hat house,” and used to boast of the comfort of being covered at meal times.

When Sir Henry Smith was expelled from Cambridge for a row, with a tradesman named “Hiron,” Matthews solaced himself with shouting under Hiron’s windows every evening

“Ah me! what perils do environ
The man who meddles with hot Hiron.”

He was also of that band of profane scoffers who, under the auspices of * * *, used to rouse Lort Mansel (late Bishop of Bristol) from his slumbers in the lodge of Trinity; and when he appeared at the window foaming with wrath, and crying out, “I know you, gentlemen, I know you!” were wont to reply, “We beseech thee to hear us, good Lort!” – “Good Lort deliver us!” (Lort was his Christian name.) As he was very free in his speculations upon all kinds of subjects, although by no means either dissolute or intemperate in his conduct, and as I was no less independent, our conversation and correspondence used to alarm our friend Hobhouse to a considerable degree.

You must be almost tired of my packets, which will have cost a mint of postage.

Salute Gifford and all my friends.

Yours
B

159: Butler, Hudibras, I 3 (“cold iron”).
Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, December 9th 1820:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43490; LJ V 135-7; QII 545-6; BLJ VII 247-8)
[To, Jno. Murray Esqre / 50. Albemarle Street / London / Angleterre / Inghilterra.]

The death of the Military Commandant of Ravenna. Byron also describes it to Moore, Lady Byron, Augusta, and again to Murray.

Ravenna. Decr <10/>9th. 1820

Dear Murray –

I intended to have written to you at some length by this post, – but as the Military Commandant160 is now lying dead in my house – on Fletcher’s bed – – I have other things to think of. –

He was shot at 8. o Clock this evening about two hundred paces from our door. – I was putting on my great Coat to pay a visit to the Countess G – when I heard a shot – and on going into the hall – found all my servants on the balcony – exclaiming that “a Man was murdered”. – – As it is the custom here to let people fight it <out> {through} – they wanted to hinder me from going <down> {out} – but I ran down into the Street – Tita the bravest of them followed me – and we made our way to the Commandant who was lying on his back with five wounds – of which three in the body – one in the heart. – – There

1:2

were about him – Diego his Adjutant – crying like a Child – a priest howling – a Surgeon who dared not touch him – two or three confused & frightened Soldiers – one or two of the boldest of the mob – and the Street dark as pitch – with the people flying in all directions. – As Diego could only cry and wring his hands – and the Priest could only pray – and nobody seemed able or willing to do anything except exclaim & tremble} [shake & stare & stand still shaking]; - I made my Servant & one of the mob take up the body – sent off Diego [crying] to the Cardinal – – the Soldiers for the <Colonel> [Guard] – & had the Commandant carried up Stairs to my own quarters. – But he was quite gone. – I made the Surgeon examine & examined him myself. – He had bled inwardly, & very little external blood was apparent. – One of the Slugs had gone quite through – all but the Skin, I felt it myself. – Two more shots in

1:3

the body – one in a finger – and another in the arm. – His face not at all disfigured – he seems asleep – but is growing livid. – The Assassin has not been taken – but the gun was found; – a gun filed down to half the barrel. – – He said nothing – but “O Dio! and “O Gesu” two. The house has [full] [for fear] [as here] nobody meddles with such things – for fear of the consequences – either of public suspicion, or private revenge on the part of the Slayers. – They may do as they please – I shall never be deterred from a duty of humanity by all the assassins of Italy – and that is a wide word. – – – He was a brave officer – but an unpopular man. – The whole town is in confusion. – –

1:4 [beneath address]

You may judge better of things here by this detail than by anything which I could add on the Subject – communicate this letter to Hobhouse & Douglas K4. – and believe me yrs. truly [scrawl]

P.S. the poor Man’s wife is not aware of his death – they are to break it to her in the morning. –

[Inverted above address:] The Lieutenant who is watching the body is smoking with the greatest Sangfroid;161 – a strange people. – –

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, December 14th 1820:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43490; LJ V 137; BLJ VII 250-1)

160: His name was Luigi dal Pinto. The authorities thanked B. for taking him in, and B. made a provision for his widow. 161: Compare DJ VIII st.98.
Dear Moray –

As it is a month since I have had any packets of proofs – I suppose some must have miscarried – Today I had a letter from Rogers – – The fifth Canto of D.J. is now under copy – it consists of 151 Stanzas. – I want to know what the devil you mean to do? – – – –

By last post I wrote to you detailing the murder of the Commandant here. – – I picked him up shot in the Street at 8 in the evening; & perceiving that his adjutant and the Soldiers about him had lost their heads completely – with rage and alarm; I <xxxxxxxxxxxx> carried [him] to my house where he lay a corpse till next day – when they removed him. – Did you receive this my letter? – They thought a row was coming – & indeed it was likely – in which the the Soldiers would have been massacred. – –

As I am well with the Liberals of the Country – it was another reason for me to

1:2

succour them; for I thought that in case of a tumult – I could by my personal influence with <some> [some] of the popular Chiefs – protect th<sis>ese <xxbxdy field of of Martialists> {surrounded soldiers} – who are but five or six hundred against five and twenty thousand – & you see few as they are that they keep picking them off daily. – It is as dangerous for that – as ever it was in the middle ages. – They are a fierce people – and at present roused and the end no one can tell. – – –

As you don’t deserve a longer letter nor any letter at all – I conclude.

y[long scrawl]

P.S. – The Officers came in a body to thank me & c. & c. – but they might as well have let it alone – for in the first place it was but for a common act of decency – & in the next – their coming may put me in odium with the liberals – & in that case – it would do them no good – nor me either. –

1:2 and 3 [at ninety degrees:] The other night (since the assassination) Fletcher was stopped three times in the Street – but on perceiving who he was they apologized & bade him pass on – – <they> the querists were probably on the look out for Somebody, they are very indefatigable in such researches. – – –

1:3 [at the correct angle, ninety degrees to the previous part:] Send me proofs of “the Hints” that I may correct them or alter.

You are losing (like a Goose) the best time for publishing the Dante and the Tragedy – – now is the moment for Italian subjects. – – –

Murray to Byron, from 50, Albemarle Street, London, December 19th 1820:

(Source: text from NLS Ms.43496; LJM 363-4)

Dear Lord Byron

I now inclose the Second & third Sheets of the Tragedy wch I sent three weeks ago & wch was returned to me on Saturday from the accident of my man having neglected to pay the postage – I have
waited for some time to send you the whole remainder (the intervening or fourth Sheet E – was sent before) Gifford has read all now with increased satisfaction & excepting a few scratches on Sheet C – he had nothing to remark – I perfectly agree with your Lordships suggestion as to publishing the Tragedy with the Prophecy of Dante it will make an appropriate volume & it shall be published as soon as you return the Sheets & I have arranged with Kinnaird – There is one circumstance of which you are probably not aware that as the Copyright law now stands, the Theatres have a right to act any play that is published – altering – adding to & without any control of the author – for their own emolument – This is an unfortunate oversight in the Law – Harris has already sent

1:2

a person with his compliments & would be obliged if I would let him have a copy of the Tragedy before it was published – Both Houses are in a dreadful State both as to finances & Actors but at Drury Lane they have none in Tragedy – Notwithstanding any thing that you can do they will make the Doge an acting Tragedy & cutting & maiming – & then by tacking together all the fine passages – “Thy very name is a Tower of Strength” & will bring Houses – They behaved in this way with Fazio & when the author remonstrated they sent him an impertinent answer – of the two it will be better acted at Covent Garden where they have Cha’ Kemble – & Macready – the latter very much improved but let me know your pleasure upon this –

If you cannot furnish – omit & very largely add to the Hints – wch is mostly excellent – I send it under another Cover – as Gifford has made no remarks on any but the Sheet now sent (C) I will not put you to the expense of the rest P

1:3

Cohen very happy & confer a great favour upon him if you would mention him in the preface – he is preparing a Work for press & a notice of him from you would much serve him by bringing his name before the public –

The Letter to Lay B was safely received & sent – & Mrs Leigh tells me acknowledged – to her – I will send Holmess Portrait in [Ms. tear: “par”]cel –

I am My Lord

your Lordships faithful Serv

Jno Murray

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, December 28th 1820:

(Source: NLS Ms.43490; LJ V 145; BLJ VII 256)

[To, – John Murray Esq. / 50. Albemarle Street. / London / Anglotere. / Inghilterra. ]

R. 106°. 28.° 1820.

D. M.

I have had no communication from you of any kind since the second reading of the Queen’s bill. – I write merely to apprize you that by this Post – I have transmitted to M’. Douglas Kinnaird the fifth Canto – of Don Juan; – & you will apply (if so disposed) to him for it. – It consists of 155 {Octave} Stanzas with a few notes. – – I wrote to you several times – and told you of the various events – assassinations &c. – which have occurred here. War is certain. – If you write – write soon. –

yr[scrawl]

P.S.

Did you receive two letters &c. from Galignani {to me} – which I enclosed to you long ago? – I suppose your answer must have been intercepted as they were of importance to you & you would naturally have acknowledged

162: Harris managed Covent Garden.
163: Covent Garden and Drury Lane.
164: Henry Hart Milman’s tragedy Fazio had been staged with success at Covent Garden in 1818.
165: Mu. omits “make”.
Murray to Byron, from 50, Albermarle Street, London, December 29th 1820:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43496: LJM 367-8)

Murray answers Byron’s of December 9th and 19th.

Dear Lord Byron

I have this instant received your very interesting Letter detailing the extraordinary death of the unhappy Commandant – your bold & prompt attendance upon him do honour to your feelings and it is to be lamented that they were not efficacious – These are amongst the evils which reconcile Englishmen to taxation & gagging Bills166 – At the same time I <have> got your Letter inclosing one to Lady Byron for whose address I have just sent to enquire of Mrs. Leigh & it shall be forwarded tonight.

Your Letters – your poetry the variety of their Subjects & the power with which they are all written assure me that you are in the full bloom of intellect – your mind takes in & reflects every thing that is passing in the world to which your remarkable good sense affixes their proper level & places – neither in politics nor in Poetry are you – or in any thing else – to be hum-bugged – – I am very grateful & so is his brother for your long reminiscences of poor Matthews which I have allowed him to copy & of which I presume your Lordship will not object to his making discreet use of it in any Memoir – – I am glad to find so much “prudence” in what you say of the Austrian Gouvernment” – Poor Waite & Poor Blake – but Waites Son (how valuable is Marriage) carries on the Tooth Powder & Brush business & I have

1:2

already sent you some –

A Fifth Canto of Don Juan – if it be equal to the Fourth it will be grand if you would but let us cut up the Third – for we all think it dull167 (hear, hear, hear) – Kinnaird, Hobhouse, Gifford – Upon my Soul this Variety by the same hand will astonish the public – – As Mr Gifford has attended to all your corrections – alterations additions &c in the Tragedy & made no other remarks himself than those which I have forwarded to you no more than the four Sheets wch you have received & three of which I have received back from you – when I receive the fourth from you I will instantly publish – I have announced it – with a very extraordinary collection a list of which I enclose a Copy – The English Bards is probably sold on every Stall – they have printed it in Ireland & we can not get hold of them – I hope you have received & are interested with Belzonis Work – the plates are curious but Atlas Folio & therefore I did not send them –

I have lately had the pleasure of being introduced to the acquaintance of Lord Holland of whom I go the Waldegrave & Lord Orford papers wch are very in

1:3

teresting – he is a most delightful Man and very obliging to me – he wants me to show him the Cantos of Don Juan wch I dare Say you will think it right for me to do –

Respecting the acting of the Doge at the Theatres I really would recommend that it should be given to Covent Garden – for they have not positively One Tragic Performer Male or Female – at Drury Lane – I have no other reason for this preference

Kean is gone you know

I shall write again soon –
pray take care of yourself –
I am Dearest Sir
your Lordships
greatly obliged
& faithful Servant
John Murray

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, December 29th 1820:

166: The murder of an unpopular soldier might reconcile a few conservative Englishmen to taxation and gagging bills, but few others.
167: “Dull” underlined five times. Mu. is mis-echoing Croker’s criticism in his letter of March 26th. Irony may be suspected.
Dr M. – In the M.S. sent to M. D. Kd. the other day – being the 5th. C of D. J. – you will find the following stanza – the <poet> writer has been speaking of Babylon. –

"’Twas famous too for Thisbe and for Pyramus
“And the calumniated Queen – Semiramis. –

“That injured Queen by Chroniclers so coarse
“Has been accused (I doubt not by Conspiracy)
“Of an improper friendship for her Horse X
“(Love like Religion sometimes runs to heresy)
“This monstrous tale had probably it’s source –
“(For such exaggerations here and there I see)
“In an Erratum of her horse for Courier;
“<I> I wish the Case could come before a Jury here."

Alter the last two lines to –
printing
or
“In writing “Courser” by mistake for “Courier”;
“I wish the Case could come before a Jury here. –

I have written to you often lately and had no answer. I wish you a New year
—or
—
Pity! the Case can’t come come before a Jury eer. –

but the other last line ending with “Jury here” is better perhaps – & I think it is – however take which you like, and let me know yr. sublime [?? ultime ?? well come??] intentions, & opinions.

1821: Byron is in Ravenna until October. He writes his Ravenna Journal, and Sardanapalus. The Neapolitan insurrection fails, and ends his hopes for the liberation of Italy from the Austrians. Teresa’s father and brother are banished from Papal territory, but Byron stays in Ravenna. He starts The Vision of Judgement (his travesty of Southey’s A Vision of Judgement) on May 27th, leaves it to write The Two Foscari and Cain, and then finishes it, September 20th–October 4th. He also writes The Blues and Heaven and Earth. On October 29th he moves to Pisa to rejoin Teresa’s family, and Shelley’s circle of friends. Sardanapalus, Cain, and The Two Foscari are published on December 19th. He starts Werner. Meanwhile, the Greek War of Independence has begun.

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, 1821:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43490; BLJ VIII 53)
[To, John Murray Esq”. / 50. Albemarle Street. / London. / Angleterre. / Inghilterra.]

P.S. Bowles’s Story of the interview at the “common friend’s (“common” enough the Gods know) is not correct. – It did not occur “soon after the publication &c. but in 1812 – three good years after – I recollect nothing of “seriousness” nor “after {as } the company were going into {another room”} – – he said to me that all his friends had bothered him crying out “Oh Bowles how came you to make the woods of Madeira tremble to a kiss” whereas it was not the woods but the lovers who trembled – though I see no great reason why they should either. – – I have had no opportunity returning the “trembling” to its’ right owners – as I had previously suppressed the Satire at Rogers’s particular suggestion – “that it would gratify Lord Holland”, and I beg leave to observe that this was <in another> [some time] after I was acquainted with L. Holland and a consequence not a cause of that connection.

Bowles was courteous and civilized enough & so was I too I hope. –
I prefer “New York” to the “Sketch Book” but the Public won’t. – the humour is far too good & too dry for them – it is like Hudibras in prose. – He must have meant to quiz the three presidents or at least two – Jefferson & Madison – one of them had a wooden leg like Peter Stuyvesant.\(^{168}\) Why does a note in the Q represent Galileo as depreciating Ariosto? On the contrary Galileo wrote the strongest & best criticism ever composed against Tasso – See Ginguiné & Serassi. – The note is from Spence. – <I th> – – – – – –

1:2 [above address:] Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, January 4th 1821:

(Source: text from NLS Ms.43492; LJ V 216-19; BLJ VIII 56-7)

[D’M’]

I write to you in considerable surprize – that since the first days of November – I have never had a line from you. It is so incomprehensible – that I call only account for it – by supposing some accident. – – –

I have written to you at least ten letters – to none of which I have had a word of answer – one of them was on your own affairs – a proposal of Galignani – relative to your publications – which I referred to you (as was proper) for your own decision – – –

Last week I sent (addressed to M’[D] Kinnaird) two packets containing the 5th. Canto – of D. J. – I wish to know what you mean to do? anything or nothing. – Of the State of this country I can only [say] – that besides the assassination of the <Gen> (Commandant) on the 7th. (of which I gave you an account as I took him up, and he died in my house) that there have been six murders committed within twenty miles – three last night. –

tyours very truly [scrawl] [turn over

1:2

P.S.

Have you gotten “the Hints” that I may alter parts & portions? – – –

I [just] see by the papers of Galignani – that there is a new tragedy of great expectation, by Barry Cornwall;\(^{169}\) – of what I have read of his works I liked the dramatic sketches – but thought his Sicilian Story\(^{170}\) & Marcian Colonna\(^{171}\) {in rhyme} – quite spoilt by I know not what affectation of Wordsworth – and Hunt – and Moore – and Myself – all mixed up into a kind of Chaos. – I think him very likely to produce a good tragedy – if he keep to a natural style – and not play tricks to form Harlequinades for an audience. – As he (<that B. C. is not his true name) was a schoolfellow of mine I take more than common interest in his success & shall be glad to hear of it speedily. – – If I had been aware that he was in that line – I should have spoken of him in the preface to M. F. – he will do a World’s wonder if he produce a great tragedy. – – I am however persuaded that this is not to be done by following the old dramatists – who are full of gross faults – pardoned only for the beauty of their language – but by writing naturally and regularly & producing regular tragedies like the Greeks – but not in imitation – merely the outline of their conduct adapted to our own times and circumstances – and of course no chorus.

You will laugh & say, “why don’t you do so?” – I have – you see tried a Sketch in M. F. – but many people think my talent “essentially undramatic” – and I am not at all clear that they are not right. If M. F. don’t fall – in the perusal – I shall perhaps try again – (but not for the Stage) and as I can clear\(^{[\text{think}]}\) that love is not the principal passion for tragedy – (& yet most of ours turn upon it) – you will not find me a popular writer. – Unless it is Love – furious – criminal – and hapless – it ought not to make a tragic subject – when it is melting & maudlin – it does – but it ought not to do – it is then for the gallery and second price boxes. – – – –

1:3

2:1 [sheet 2 is the torn-off top of a larger sheet]

\(^{168}\): No American president has ever had a wooden leg.

\(^{169}\): Barry Cornwall, Mirandola, a tragedy (1820).

\(^{170}\): Barry Cornwall, Sicilian Story, with Diego de Montilla (1820).

\(^{171}\): Barry Cornwall, Marcia Colonna: an Italian tale, with three dramatic sketches (1820).
2.) If you want to have a notion of what I am trying – take up a translation of any of the Greek tragedians. If I said the original – it would be an impudent presumption of mine – – but the translations are so inferior to the originals that I think I may risk it. – Then judge of the “simplicity of plot – &c.” – and do not judge me by your old mad dramatists, which is like <tasting> {drinking Usquebaugh} – & then proving a fountain – yet after all I suppose that you do not mean that Spirits is a

 nobler element than a clear spring bubbling in the Sun – & this I take to be the difference between the Greeks and those turbid mountebanks – always excepting B. Jonson – who was a Scholar & a Classic.

  – – Or take up a translation of Alfieri – & try the interest, &c. of these my new attempts in the old line, by him in English. – And then tell me fairly your opinion. – But don’t measure me by the your own old or new tailor’s yards. – Nothing so easy as intricate confusion of plot and rant. – – Mrs. Centlivre [in comedy] has ten times the bustle of Congreve – but are they to [be] Compared? & yet she drove Congreve from the theatre. – – –

Murray to Byron, from 50, Albermarle Street, London, January 5th 1821:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43497; LJM 370-1)
[Milord / Milord Byron / Poste Restante / Ravenna / Italie // stamped: FORLI [date illegible.]]
Murray answers Byron’s of December 14th.

Dear Lord Byron

I got your Letter of the 14th 10bre the day before yesterday, & previously I had acknowledged the favour of a very interesting one describing so truly the assassination of the Commandant – Italy is in a Sad State but {a foreigner} never fares well in foreign troubles & it is a great comfort to your friends here to know that you are too wise to interfere. Every Letter that I receive and every poem that you compose, render your life more valuable to this country, and I trust that you will not put it to uncalled for or thankless hopeless hazard – – It is as you say a strange people – most absurdly & barbarously gouverned – This Nation will take no part on either side –

I have sent your Lordship every Sheet upon which Mr Gifford had made his marks and as your corrections in all the others have been carefully attended to by him, I hope when I receive the last proof sent you back that we may instantly publish – The Tragedy is sufficient to fill the Public Mind & I would suffer them to ponder on it, without the addition of

1:2

the Prophecy of Dante – for which the Tragedy will have prepared them & which will follow well in the Volume with Pulci Dante &c – You are up to the hight of anxiety as to the fate of Italy situate as you are – but here it is only began with Politicians & will just have descended to the Mark of popular feeling by the time, hearing from your Lordship the Tragedy may be brought out – My Plan <I> is I thing to publish this separately in the form & at the price 5/6 of the Corsair &c & wch appears abstracted from higher merits, to have succeeded – at the end of it I can announce the Prophecy of Dante &c as in the press –

I am confident that an attempt will be made to act it if we make an arrangement with either house previously – then you can not complain and as I perceive clearly that your Lordship is disinclined to its appearance on the Stage as far as you can prevent it, it will be better to forego the <lit> Trifle that they would offer for the preference, than to appear to court its representation. It is a vexatious thing & merits reprehension in the preface – Pray notice Cohen if you can – he well de

1:3

deserves the honour & the favour – I sent, the week before last a proof of the English Bards – & if I send you more trashy Poetry you will know the kindness towards the public which it indicates –

“The Doge of Venice” simply, is a more captivating Title <than> without the pre addition of Marino & in my advertisements, at least, I have ventured to adopt it. – The enquiry for it is now

172: Little does Mu. know, but B. is Capo of the Ravenna Carbonari. He holds their records, and they store their arms in his cellar.
gathering to a great extent – Foscolo is always wondering how from such a speck of Story you have depicted so much passion – The Review of Ricciarda in the Quarterly is by Milman

Many happy returns of the Year – We have had very severely Cold windy Weather but dry this is the first day of Snow – –

I remain ever my Lord
Your faithful servant
John Murray

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, January 6th 1821:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43492; LJ V 219-20; BLJ VIII 58)
Enclosed with Byron’s of January 8th.

Ravenna. January 6th, 1821

On the “Braziers’ Address’ to be presented in Armour by the Company &c. &c.” as stated in the Newspapers. 173

It seems that the Braziers <are going> {propose so on} to pass
An Address and to bear it themselves all in brass;
A Superfluous Pageant, for by the Lord Harry!
They’ll find where they’re going, much more than they carry.
or
The Braziers it seems are determined to pass
An Address and present it themselves All in brass, trouble
A Superfluous pageant, for by the Lord Harry!
They’ll find, where they’re going, much more than they carry.

[Second side blank.]

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, January 8th 1821:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43492; LJ V 220; BLJ VIII 58-9)
[To, John Murray Esqre. / 50. Albemarle Street. / London / Angleterre. / Inghilterra.]

Ravenna. January 8th, 1821

Illustrious Sir – I enclose you a long note for the 5th. Canto of Don Juan174 – you will find where it should be placed on referring to the MS. – which I sent to Mr. Kinnaird. – I had subscribed the authorities – Arrian – Plutarch – Hume &c. for the correction of Bacon – but thinking it pedantic to do so – have since erased them.175 – – I have had no letter from you since one dated 3d. of Nov. – You are a pretty fellow but I will be even with you some day.
yours &c. &c.
Byron.

P.S. – The Enclosed epigram is not for publication, recollect. –

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, January 11th 1821 (a):
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43492; LJ V 221-2; BLJ VIII 59-60)

Ravenna. January 11th, 1821

D’ M’ –

Put this – “I am obliged for this excellent translation of the old Chronicle to Mr. Cohen,”176 to whom the reader will find himself indebted for a version which I could not myself (though after so many years intercourse with Italians) have given by any means so purely and so faithfully.” I have looked over “the Hints” – (of which by the way – You have not sent the whole), and see little to alter, – I do not see yet any name which could be offended – at least of my friends. – – As an advertisement or short preface say as follows (Let me have the rest though first)

“However little this poem may resemble the annexed Latin – it has been submitted to one of the great rules of Horace – having been kept in the desk for more than nine years. – – It was composed at Athens

173: The Braziers’ Company was offering a message of support to Queen Caroline. B.’s jest implies her to be far more brazen than their offering.
174: The long note impugning the accuracy of Bacon’s Apophthegms.
175: Each note is traced in the edition of DJ V on this website.
176: Francis Cohen had translated the first appendix to Marino Faliero, from Muratori.
in the Spring of 1811 – and received some additions after the author’s return to England in the same year. – –

1:2

I protest – and desire you to protest stoutly and publicly – (if it be necessary) against any attempt to bring the tragedy on any stage. – It was written solely for the reader. – It is too regular – and too simple and of too remote an interest for the Stage. I will not be exposed to the insolences of an audience – without a remonstrance. – As thus – – –

“The Author – having heard that notwithstanding his request and remonstrance – it is the intention of one of the London Managers to attempt the introduction of the tragedy of M. F. upon the Stage – does hereby protest publicly that such a proceeding is as totally against his wishes – as it will prove against the interest of the theatre. – That Composition was intended for the Closet only – as the reader will easily perceive. – By no kind of adaptation can it be made fit for the <Stage> {present} – English Stage. – – If the Courtesy of the Manager is not sufficient to withhold him from exercising <that> {his} power over a published drama – which the Law has not sufficiently protected from such usurpation –”

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, January 11th 1821 (b):
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43492; LJ V 222-3; BLJ VIII 60-1)
[2.) To – John Murray Esq. of 50. Albemarle Street. / London. / Angleterre. / Inghilterra.]
Byron answers Murray’s of December 19th. Murray has got as far as setting up a proof of parts of Hints from Horace.

R°. J°. 11th. 1821. –

Dear Murray –

I have read with attention the enclosed of which you have not sent me however the whole (which pray send) and have made the few corrections I shall make in what I have seen at least. – I will omit nothing and alter little; – the fact is (as I perceive) – that I wrote a great deal better in 1811 – – – than I have ever done since. – I care not a sixpence whether the work is popular or not – that is your concern – and as I neither name price – nor care about terms – it can concern you little either – so that it pays it’s expence of printing. – I leave all those matters to y°. magnanimity (which is something like Lady Byron’s) which will decide for itself. – You have about I know not what quantity of my stuff on hand just now (a 3° Canto of Don Juan also by this time) and must cut according to y°. cloth. – – – – – Is not one of the Seals meant for my Cranium? and the other who or what is he?

y°. ever truly
Byron

P.S. – What have you decided about Galignani? – I think you might at least have acknowledged my letter – which would have been civil – also a letter on the late murders here – also pray do not omit to protest and impede (as far as possible) any Stage – playing with the tragedy. – I hope that the Histrions will see their own interest too well to attempt it. – See my other letter. – – – – –

1:2 [above address:] P.S. – You say – speaking of acting – “let me know your pleasure in this – – I reply that there is no pleasure in it – the play is not for acting – Kemble or Kean could read it – but where are they? – Do not let me be sacrificed in such a manner – depend upon it – it is some partywork to run down you and y°. favourite horse. – – – – – I know something of Harris and Elliston personally – and if they are not Critics enough to see that it would not do, I think them Gentlemen enough to desist at my request – [below address:] Why don’t they bring out some of the thousands of meritorious & neglected men who cumber their shelves – instead of lugging me out of the library? – – – – – Will you excuse the severe postage – with which my late letters will have taxed you?

“I had taken such strong resolutions against anything of that kind from seeing how much every body that did write for the Stage was obliged to subject themselves to the players and the town.”

Spence’s Anecdotes page 22.

January 13th 1821: Byron starts Sardanapalus; he finishes it on May 27th.

Murray to Byron, from 50, Albemarle Street, London, January 16th 1821:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43497; LJM 373-4)
Murray answers Byron’s of December 28th.

London Jany. 16th. 1821

Dear Lord Byron

I have this day received your Lordships Short Letter announcing the actual conveyance of the fifth Canto of Don Juan to Mr. Kinnaird to whom I have already written – he is going to Paris immediately. Expecting that Mr. Gifford would have got better day after day slipped away till a mass of time accumulated of which I was not aware – he made no marks upon any other proofs except the 4 or 5 which I have sent & as soon as I receive One more the only one you have – I shall push it out with the appendage of the Prophecy of Dante. I wrote to Galignani & told him that if he could send me any reasonable Sum – I would transmit your Lordships Assignment to him – which I think tolerably fair – I saw Mrs. Leigh a few days since & heard your just complaints against my cursed silence & I have this moment received a summons to hear another Lecture just received – from the same quarter – which I ought to undergo – I am so broken in upon & my mind so distracted that I can not collect my thoughts to write – and I really wish you would do me the favour to return to London & come & talk all the day long – or send for me at Ravenna in the course of the present year – Your Lordship will see by the list of Books whch I inclosed in my last, that I am not idle – I hope by Friday to have read the Fifth Canto when I shall have the pleasure of writing again – With best compliments I remain Dear Lord Byron

Most truly yours
John Murray

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, January 19th 1821:

(Source: text from NLS Ms.43492; LJ V 224-6; BLJ VIII 64-6)
[To John Murray Esqre. / 50. Albermarle Street. / London. / Angleterre. / Inghilterra.]

Byron answers Murray’s of December 29th.

Ravenna – January 19th. 1821.

Dear Moray –

Yours of ye. 29th. Ultma. hath arrived. I must really and seriously request that you will beg of Messrs Harris or Elliston – to let the Doge alone – it is not an acting play; – it will not serve their purpose – it will destroy yours ?{(the Sale)} – and it will distress me. – It is not courteous, it is hardly even gentlemanly to persist in this appropriation of a man’s writings to their Mountebanks. – – – I have already sent you by last post – a short protest to the Public (against this proceeding); in case that they persist, which I trust that they will not – – you must {then} publish it in the Newspapers. – I shall not let them off with that only, if they go on – – but make a longer appeal on that subject – and state what I think the injustice of their mode of behaviour. – – It is hard that I should have all the buffoons in Britain – to deal with – pirates who will publish – and players who will act – when there are thousands of worthy and able men who can neither get bookseller

nor manager for love nor money. – – – –

You never answered me a word about Galignani – if you mean to use the two documents – do if not – burn them – I do not choose to leave them in any one’s possession – suppose someone found them – without the letters – what would they think? – why – that I had been doing the opposite of what I have done – to wit – referred the whole thing to you – an act of civility at least – which required at least saying – “I have received your letter.” – – I thought that you might have some hold upon those publications by this means – to me – it can be no interest one way or the other. – – – – –

The third Canto of D. J. is dull 177; but you must really put up with it – if the two first – and the two following are tolerable – what do you object? – particularly – as I neither dispute with you on it – as a matter of criticism – or a matter of business.

1:2

1:3

177: Mu. was probably joking when he wrote this on December 29th.
Besides what am I to understand? you and D' Kinnaird – & others – write to me that the two first published Cantos are among the best that I ever wrote – and are <thought> {reckoned} sō – M''. Leigh writes that they are thought "execrable" (bitter word that for an author – Eh Murray?) as a composition even – and that she had heard so much against them – that she would [Ms. tear: "never"?] "not"?] read them, & never has. – – Be tha[Ms. tear: "i as it"] may – I can’t alter. – <It> [That] is not my [Ms. tear: "orte"?] "ate"?] If you publish the three new ones without [Ms. tear: "osten"?]lation – they may perhaps succeed. – – –

Pray publish the Dante and the Pulci – (the Prophecy of Dante I mean) – I look upon the Pulci as my grand performance. – – –

The remainder of “the Hints” where be they? – <And> {Now} bring them all out about the same time – otherwise “the variety” you wot of – will be less <obveiou> <obr> obvious. – – – – – –

I am in <Xxxxxx> bad humour – some obstructions in business – with the damned trustees – who object to an advantageous loan {which} I was to <make> {furnish} <to make> to a Nobleman on Mortgage – because his

1:4 [above address:] property is in Ireland – have shown me how a man is treated in his absence. – Oh – if I do come back – I will make some of those who little dream of it – spin – – or <they> [below address:] or I shall go down. – – – – – The news here is – that Col. Brown (the Witness=buyer)178 has been stabbed – at Milan – but not mortally. – I wonder that any body should dirty their daggers in him. – They should have beaten him with Sand=bags – an old Spanish fashion. – – – – – –

I sent you a line or two on the Braziers’ Company last week – not for publication.

y". [scrawl]

[above address again, inverted:] The lines were even worthy

“Of Turdsworth the great Metaquizzical poet
A man of great merit amongst those who know it.
Of whose works, as I told Moore last autumn at x, Mestri
I owe all I know to my passion for Pastry.

x Mestri and Fusina are the ferry trajects to Venice –

[letter curls round top left-hand corner:] I believe however that it was at Fusina that Moore and I embarked in 1819 when Thomas came to Venice – – like Coleridge’s Spring “slowly up <that> this way.”179

[inverted, parallel to address:] Omit the dedication to Goëthe.

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, January 20th 1821 (a):
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43492; LJ V 226-8; BLJ VIII 66-7)
[To, John Murray Esqre. / 50. Albemarle Street. / London. / Angleterre. / Inghilterra.]

Ravenna. January 20th. 1821.

Dear Murray –

If Harris or Elliston persist – after the remonstrance which I requested you and M’. Kinnaird to make on my behalf – & which I hope will be sufficient – but – if – I say – they do persist – then [I pray you] to present in person the enclosed letter to the Lord Chamberlain180 – I have said – in person – otherwise I shall have neither answer nor knowledge that it has reached it’s address – [Ms. tear: "ow"]ing to “the insolence of office.”181

I wish you would speak to Lord Holland – and to all my friends and yours to interest themselves in preventing this cursed attempt at representation. – – – –

God help me – at this distance – I am treated like a corpse or a fool – by the few people whom I thought that I could rely upon; – – and I was a fool – to think any better of them than of the rest of mankind. – Pray write –

y". ever

Byron

178: Brown had bribed people to testify at the trial of Queen Caroline.
179: Coleridge, Christabel, 1.22.
180: B. finally sends this on March 2nd.
181: Shakespeare, Hamlet, III i 73.
1:2 [above address:] P.S. – I have nothing more at heart – (that is in literature) than to prevent this <pt> drama from going upon the Stage: – in short – rather than permit it – it must be suppressed altogether – [below address:] and only forty copies struck off privately for presents to my friends. – – – What damned fools those speculating buffoons must be not to see that it is unfit for their Fair – or their booth.

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Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, January 20th 1821 (b):
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43492; LJ V 228-9; BLJ VIII 67)
[To, Jno Murray Esq. / 50. Albermarle Street. / London. / Angleterre. / Inghilterra.]
January 20th. 1821.

D° M°

I did not think to have troubled you with the plague and postage of a double letter – this time – but I have just read in an Italian paper “That Ld. B. has a tragedy coming out &c. &c. &c.” and that the Courier and Morning Chronicle &c. &c. are pulling one another to pieces about it and him &c. – – – – – –

[Ms. tear: “Now”?] – I do <reitt> reiterate – and desire [Ms. tear: “that”] <the> every thing may be done to prevent it from coming out in any theatre for which it never was designed – and on which (in the present state of the stage in London) it could never succeed – I have sent you my appeal {by last post} – which you must publish in case of need – – and I require you even in your own {name} (if my honour is dear to you) to declare that such representation would be contrary to my wish and to my judgement. –
If you do not wish to drive me mad altogether – you will hit upon some way to prevent this. – –

Ms. tear: “that”

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Murray to Byron, from 50, Albermarle Street, London, January 23rd 1821:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43497; LJM 375-6)

[To, Lord Byron / Poste restante / Ravenna / Italie // arrived: Forli 11 February]
Murray answers Byron’s of January 4th.

London Jany 23. 1821

Dear Lord Byron,

Yesterday was your Birth Day which I kept with a jovial party who drank your he<l>alth with heartfelt glee – you have <g/>yet gone so little way in life that you my return & start again – may all your plans involve your certain happiness of which I wish that England may form the future Theatre –

I have this instant received your Lordships Letter of the 4th inst – every Letter increases my obligation to your magnificent temper upon my Silence of which of late & I trust in future you will have no cause to complain of – All your late letters I have answered on the day –

M° Kinnaird has not yet returned to England & consequently I have not seen the Fifth Canto.

Barry Cornwall has been fortunate in the happy exertions of Kemble & Macready & his play goes on well 182 – I sent it to you the day of its publication last week – There is much poetry

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1:2

and greater promise in it – I shall be happy to hear your opinion – I shall tell the Author Proctor of your generous feelings towards him – here I am interrupted by receiving from your Sister – your rebuke of me – but I tell her that my answers will now fall upon you like an Avalanche – when once My <Silence> when once the thaw of my Silence reaches you –

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182: Mirandola. It ran for fourteen nights.
The King opened the Session today in Person I mixed with the Crowd – & certainly the Popular – the Mass expressed feeling was in his favour – I cut the Speech out of the Courier, & inclose it – Warm debating & a protected debate is expected – but L² Grey & ye Duke of Bedford met Foscolo at my door an hour ago – & say that Ministers will stay in – Canning is gone to Paris where he is to remain until as he told Gifford “We talk decent” – For Once – he <ch> has acted with discretion –
I have told Kinnaird that I will
give £1,000 for the Doge & Prophecy – wch is upon my honour the Utmost that they can possibly produce – according to any rational Speculation – & then they will sell with the Works afterwards – I will print & publish the two in the Same Volume [Ms tear.]

You are most gratefully remembered here by all yr foresaken Admirers & are the incessant subject of Conversation & Enquiry – I am going to Lady Davy’s tonight to whom More has, I understand, lent your MSS Memoirs when at Paris – is this Right I have not seen them yet –
Many happy new Years to you

your indulgence to my disease of Silence allows me to hope that you yet believe me to be Dear Lord Byron

your grateful & faithful Servant

John Murray

Murray to Byron, from 50, Albemarle Street, London, January 26th 1821:

Dear Lord Byron

Yesterday I received yours of the 8th Inst inclosing a note for the 5th Canto of Don Juan – Mr Kinnaird is not yet come back from Paris. The Epigram on the Braziers may be published without any chance of the discovery of its author – there is no such extraordinary wit to betray itself.

The Town is suddenly filled and all are impatient for the Doge, and I am very anxious to learn its effect upon the public – it will probably be more estimated by the Critics than popular with the Million – I long to read Juan – I print it at once the Three Cantos in Octavo for if published as before in 4to some villain may again pirate it & leave no alternative for the preservation of the Copyright but the public legal discovery of the Author – I wish you would have allowed Gifford to advise as to omissions – for a poem of this nature should at least retain nothing that is dull – but Genius is obstinate & I do not expect you to do any thing – Respecting the purchase of these Cantos, considering the precarious nature of the Copyright I think I may venture, upon the strength of all our transactions, to ask you to allow me to publish it first and to try what it will produce before I enter into any specific bargain at the same time if you do not approve of this I hold myself to giving for as 2 Cantos the sum which I have more than once offered – you do not talk of having finished the Poem of Juan in the fifth Canto & I infer that you have not.

Did you see in any of the papers that the King has been induced to place himself at the head of a new institution for the encouragement of Men of Letters & that each year three Prizes are to be given – the first, this year is for – the best Essay on the Writings of Homer &c £100 – N° 2 – £50 for the best POEM – on on – on DARTMOOR!!!!. – will you try?

This night there is to be a trial of strength with the Ministers & the – <would> Would-be-Ministers it is yet uncertain if the Motion of the Opposition is to be for a Vote of censure on the Ministers for having Struck out the Queen’s name from the Liturgy – Or to propose its re-insertion –

Here is M¹ Lockhart, Sir W. Scotts new[ly] made Son in Law – & quondam Co-Editor of Black – wood (Q’ guard’s) Magazine – has left the Arms of his Wife & come up to town to Challenge Scott – the Author of the London Magazine
but Scott – declines – Putting this Question – did you ever receive emolument in any way for writing in Blackwoods Magazine? – If you wont answer this question I shall not fight – and if you do – in the affirmative – I cant fight you – Pray think of a Baviad – I will send you Materials – by the Way Barry Cornwalls Printer sent to my fellow Type Founder to order a Letter precisely the same as that in which Lord Byrons Poems were printed – Ready Money

Gifford always speaks of you with admiration & nothing is so great a treat to him as your interesting letters – how little do I deserve them.? Accept my most sincere regard & good wishes & believe me

Dearest Sir

your Lordships faithful Servant

John Murray

Have you received Belzoni? Is he not a fine fellow? the best travels we have had since Park!

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, January 27th 1821:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43492; LJ V 231-3; BLJ VIII 69-70)
[To, John Murray Esqre. / 50. Albemarle Street. / London. / Angleterre, / Inghilterra.]

Byron confesses to identifying with Faliero.

Ravenna J’a 27th. 1821.

Dear Moray –

I have mentioned M. Cohen in a letter to you last week – from which the passage should be extracted <or> and prefixed to his translation. – You will also have received two or three letters upon the subject of the Managers – in one enclosed an epistle for the Lord Chamberlain – (in case of the worst) and I even prohibited the publication {of the Tragedy} – limiting it to a few copies for only private friends, – But this would be useless – after going so far – so you may publish – as we intended – only – (if the Managers attempt to act) pray present my letter to the L. Chamberlain – <and> publish my appeal in the papers – adding that it has all along been against my wishes – that it should be represented. – – –

I differ from you about the Dante – which I think should be published with the tragedy. – But do as you please – you must be the best judge of your own craft. – I agree with you about the title. – – The play may be good or bad – but I flatter myself that it is original as a picture of that kind of passion – which to my mind is so natural – that I am convinced that I should have done precisely what the Doge did on those provocations. – – – –

I am glad of Foscolo’s approbation. –

I wish you mould send me the remainder – of “the Hints” – you only sent about half of them.

As to the other volume – you should publish them about the same period – or else – what becomes of the “variety” which you talk so much of? – – –

Excuse haste – I believe I mentioned to you that – I forget what it was – but no matter. 184 – – – –

Thanks for your compliments of the year – I hope that it will be pleasanter than the last – I speak with reference to England only as far as regards myself – where I had

1:2

every kind of disappointment – lost an important lawsuit; – and the trustees of that {evil Genius of} a woman [L. B.] (who was born for my desolation) refusing to allow of an advantageous loan to be made from my property to Lord Blessington &c. &c. by way of closing the four seasons. – These and a hundred {other} such things made a year of bitter business 185 for me in England – luckily things were a little pleasanter for me here – else I would have taken the liberty of Hannibal’s ring. 186 – – – – – – –

Pray thank Gifford – for all his goodnesse – the winter is as cold here – as Parry’s Polarities 187 – I must now take a canter in the forest – my horses are waiting – y’s ever & truly

183: Giovanni Belzoni, Narrative of … the pyramids, temples, tombs, and excavations in Egypt and Nubia (1821).
184: An example of “Byron’s Aposiopesis”!!
185: Shakespeare, Hamlet, III ii 381.
186: That is, killed himself.
187: Referred to at TVOJ 27, 8.
P.S. – It is exceedingly strange that you have never acknowledged the receipt of Galignani’s letters which I enclosed to you three months ago – what the devil does that mean? –

Murray to Byron, from 50, Albermarle Street, London, January 30th 1821:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43497; LJM 382-3)
Murray answers Byron of January 11th. He reveals that all Byron’s letters from Italy are opened by the government (whether the Austrian or English is not clear).

Dear Lord Byron
You are much more a man of business that your publisher & I can bear testimony to the obliging punctuality of your answers – this day brought me the Sheet of the Doge and those of the “Hints from Horace” – I did not know until you pointed it out that this was not the whole for Hobhouse gave me two Copies – & I printed from that in the fairest Hand – I have now taken out the other & mind much more wch with the Notes &c I have sent to the printer – I will also insert all repsecting Pope from the Letter to Blackwood – & send Proofs of these parts in a few days. – I am glad you have given me something to say to the Theatres in case they force your Muse on the Stage and you may rely on my attention to it – You are very kind in your admiration of Cohens name for which he will feel both pride & gratitude – You appear to estimate all

our Poets with just appreciation down to Barry Cornwall whose tragedy will certainly not raise him in your estimation – The injudicious commendations of the Ed. Rev. will do him no good nor the tea drinkings with Hunt Hazlitt – Reynolds {&c –} who are all alternately allowed to praise each other – in the Ed. Rev. – which is going down Hill –

I told you what I had said to Galignani – Postage – do you mention – I would set aside half my income to pay it in Letters from you –

Well the Wigs have been most desperately beaten – never so compleatly – they want common knowledge of their Country-men – & almost Common Sense –<they> & to have their heels tripped up by an Alderman –

By the way dining with my most excellent friend Freeling a few days since I put Yr Letters about – Waite – the Com

mandant &c in my pocket as he is a great admirer of any thing from you – well shays he All my Letters from Italy are opened – let me look at yours – thats been opened – thats opened – thats opened. Pray is there any hope of your coming to England in the Spring?

I received with the Doge & Hints – a note from Lady B – wch I have forwarded –

Yes the Seal was intended for you but it is vile & I have returned it & the other for Sir Walter Scott!!!!!! Foscolo is to get me one well made in Italy – No Word of Torwalsteins Bust – which my Room yearns for – I am ever my Lord

Most faithfully
Your obliged Servant
John Murray

Kinnaird not arrived yet & I have not seen Canto 5 –

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, February 2nd 1821:
(Source: NLS Ms.43492; LJ V 234; BLJ VIII 73-5)

Dear Moray,
Your letter of excuses has arrived. – – I receive the letter but do not admit the excuses except in courtesy – as when a man treads on your toes and begs your pardon – the pardon is granted –
but the joint aches – especially if there is a corn upon it. – However I shall scold you presently. – – – – 

In the last speech of “the Doge” there occurs (I think, from memory) the phrase – “And thou who makest and unmakest Suns.” Change this to (“And thou who kindlest and who quenchest Suns”) – that is to say – if the verse runs equally well – and M’. Gifford thinks the expression improved. – – 

Pray – have the bounty to attend to this – you are grown quite a minister of State – mind – if some of these days – you are not thrown out. – God will not be always a Tory – though Johnson says the first Whig was the Devil. – – – 

You have learnt one secret from M’. 

Galignani’s (somewhat tardily acknowledged) correspondence. – This is – that an English Author may dispose of his exclusive copy=right in France – a fact of some consequence (in time of peace) in the case of a popular writer. – Now I will tell you what you shall do – and take no advantage of you – though you were scurvy enough never to acknowledge my letter for three months. – – 

Offer Galignani the refusal of the copy=right in France – if he refuses – approve any bookseller in France you please – and I will sign any assignment you please – and it shall never cost you a Sou on my account. – – 

Recollect [that] I will have nothing to do with it – except as far as it may secure the copyright to yourself. – – I will have <neither> no bargain but with English publishers – and I desire no interest out of that country. – Now that’s fair and open and a little handsomer than your dodging silence – to see what would come of it. – You are an excellent fellow – mio Caro Moray – but there is still a little leaven of Fleet=street about you now and then – a crumb of the old loaf. – – You have no right to act suspiciously with me for I have given you no reason – I shall always be frank with you – as for instance. – Whenever you talk with the votaries of Apollo authentically – it should be in guineas not pounds – to poets as well as physicians – and bidders at Auctions. – – – – – 

I shall say no more at this present save that I am y<rs>. very truly 

[swirl signature] 

1:2 

1:3 

1:4 [above address:] P.S. – If you venture as you say – to Ravenna this year – through guns, which (like the Irishman’s) “shoot round a corner” I will exercise the rites of hospitality while you live – and bury you handsomely (though not in holy ground) if you get “shot [below address:] or slashed in a {creagh} or Splore” which are rather frequent here of late among the {native} parties. – But perhaps your visit may be anticipated, for Lady Medea’s trustees – and my Attorneo – do so thwart all business of mine {that I shall be} in despite of M’. K<4> and myself – that I may probably come <home> to your country – in which case write to her Ladyship – the duplicate of the epistle the King of France wrote to Prince John.185 – – She and her Scoundrels shall find it so. – – – – – 

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, February 12th 1821: 
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43492; LJ V 237; BLJ VIII 76-7) 
[3<4>. To J<6> Murray Esqre. / 50. Albemarle Street. / London. / Angloterre. / Inghilterra.] 

The full proof of Hints from Horace has still not been sent. 

R<5> F<7> 12<6>. 1821 

D<6> S<7>: 

You are requested to take particular care that the enclosed note is printed with the drama. – Foscolo or Hobhouse will correct the Italian – but do not you delay – every one of y<rs>. Cursed proofs – is a two months’ delay – which you only employ to gain time, because you think it a bad [Ms. tear: “spec”]ulation. 

y<rs>. 

Byron 

188: MF V iii 39. 
189: “Take care of yourself – the Devil is broke loose” (from Hume’s History of England, one of the sources for the long note on Bacon’s Apophthegms.
P.S. –

If the thing fails in the publication – you are not pinned even to your own terms – merely print and publish what I desire you – and if you don’t succeed – I will abate whatever you please. – – <If the alteration of two lines in anything I have written> I care nothing about that – but I wish what I desire to be printed to be so. – – –

I have never had the <additional> [remaining] sheets of the “Hints from H”.

1:2 [over address:] In the letter on Bowles – after the words “the long walls of {Palestrina and} Malamocco” add “i Murazzi” which is their Venetian title.

[inverted, parallel to address:] M’. M. is requested to acknowledge the receipt of this by return of post.

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, February 16th 1821:

(Source: text from NLS Ms.43492; LJ V 241-5; BLJ VIII 77-9)

[To, / John Murray Esq / 50 Albemarle Street / London / Angleterre / Inghilterra]

Byron lays out his plan for Don Juan. He answers Murray’s of January 30th.

Ravenna: Feb° 16.° 1821

Dear Moray –

In the month of March will arrive from Barcelona – Signor Curioni engaged for the Opera. – He is an acquaintance of mine – and a gentlemanly young man – high in his profession. – I must request your personal kindness and patronage in his favour. – –

Pray introduce him to such of the theatrical people – Editors of Papers – : and others, as may be useful to him in his profession publicly and privately. – He is accompanied by the Signora Arpalice Taruscelli – a Venetian lady of great beauty and celebrity and a particular <acquaintance> friend of mine – your natural gallantry will I am sure induce you to pay her proper attention. – Tell Israeli – that as he is fond of literary anecdotes – she can tell him some of your acquaintance abroad. – I presume that he speaks Italian. – Do not neglect this request, but do them and me this favour in their behalf. – – I shall write to some others to aid you in assisting them with your countenance.

1:2

I agree to your request of leaving in abeyance the terms for the three D.J.s till you can ascertain the effect of publication. – –

If I refuse to alter – you have a claim to so much courtesy in return. – I {had} let you off your proposal about the price of the Cantos, last year (the 3d. & 4th. always to reckon as one only – which they originally were) and I do not call upon you to renew it. – – You have therefore no occasion to fight so shy of such subjects as I am not conscious of having given you occasion – – The 5th. is so far from being the last of D.J. that it is hardly the beginning. – I meant to <make> {take} him the tour of Europe – with a proper mixture of siege – battle – and adventure – and to make him finish as Anacharsis Cloots – in the French revolution. – To how many cantos this may extend – I know not – nor whether (even if I live) I shall complete it – but this was my notion. – I meant to have made him a Cavalier Servente {in Italy} and a

1:3

cause for a divorce in England – and a Sentimental “Werther-faced man” in Germany – so as to show the different ridicules of the society in each of those countries – – and to have displayed him gradually gate and blasé <with> as he grew older – as is natural. – But I had not quite fixed whether to make him end in Hell – or in an unhappy marriage, – not knowing which would be the severest. – The Spanish tradition says Hell – but it is probably only an Allegory of the other state. – – – – –

You are now in possession of my notions on the Subject. – You say “the Doge” will not be popular – did I ever write for popularity? – – I defy you to show a work of mine (except a tale or two) of a popular style or complexion. – It appears to me that there is room for a different style of the drama – neither a servile following of the old drama – which is a grossly erroneous one – nor yet too French – like those who succeeded

190: See B. to H. and K., January 19th 1819 (where her name is spelled “Tarruscelli”). She was one of his Venetian girlfriends.
the older writers. – It appears to me that good English – and a severer approach to the rules – might combine something not dishonourable to our literature. – I have also attempted to make a play without love. – And there are neither rings – nor mistakes – nor starts – nor outrageous ranting villains – nor melodrame – in it. – All this will prevent it’s popularity, but does not persuade me that it is therefore faulty. – Whatever faults it has will arise from deficiency in the conduct – rather than in the conception – which is simple and severe. – So – you epigrammatize upon my epigram. 191 – I will pay you for that – mind if I don’t – some day. – I never let anyone off in the long run – – (who [first] begins) – remember Sam – and see if I don’t do you as good a turn. – You unnatural publisher! – what – quiz your own authors! – You are a paper Cannibal. – – – –

In the letter on Bowles – (which I sent by Tuesday’s post) after the words “attempts <to publish> had been made” (alluding to the republication of “English Bards,”) – add – the words “in Ireland” – for I believe that Cawthorn did not begin his attempts till after I had left England the second time. – Pray attend to this. – – – Let me know what you & your Synod think of the letter on Bowles. – – – I did not think the {second} Seal so bad – surely it is far better than the Saracen’s head with which you have sealed your last letter – – [the larger] in profile was surely {much} better than that. – {Ms tear: “So”] Foscolo says he will get you a seal cut better in Italy – he means a throat – that is the only thing they do dexterously. – The Arts – all but Canova’s and Morghen’s – and <Ovid’s> Ovid’s; – (I don’t mean poetry) are as low as need be – look at the Seal which I gave to Wm. Bankes – and own it. – How came George Bankes to quote English Bards in the House of Commons? all the World keep flinging that poem in my face. – – Belzoni is a grand traveller – & his English is very prettily broken. – – –

2:2 [above address:] As for News – the Barbarians are marching on Naples – – and if they lose a single battle, all Italy will be up. – It will be like the Spanish war if they have any bottom. – – – “Letters opened!” to be sure they are – and that’s the reason why I always put in my opinion [below address:] of the {German Austrian} Scoundrels; – there is not an Italian who loathes them more than I do – and whatever I could do <by> to scour Italy and the earth of their infamous oppression – would be done “con amore”.

yrs ever & truly

B[scrawl]

[inveter, parallel to address, split to make room for the seal:] Recollect that // the Hints must // be printed // with the Latin // otherwise there // is no sense. –

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, February 21st 1821:
(Source: text from B.L.Ashley 4746; LJ V 246-51; BLJ VIII 80-3)
[To J. Murray Esqre / for publication] 192 Byron defends his reputation as a swimmer of the Hellespont.
Ravenna. February 21st. 1821.

Dear Sir,

In the 44th. page vol 1st. of Turner’s travels (which you lately sent me) it is stated that “Lord Byron – when he <confid> expressed such confidence of it’s practicability seems to have forgotten that Leander swam both ways with and against the tide, whereas he (L² B.) only performed the easiest part of the task by swimming with it from Europe to Asia.” – I certainly could not have forgotten what is known to every Schoolboy – that Leander crossed in the Night and returned towards the morning. – My object was to ascertain that the Hellespont could be crossed {at all} by swimming – and in this – M’. Ekenhead & myself both succeeded – {in one} [the one in an hour] and ten minutes – {and} [the other in] one hour & five minutes. The tide was not in our favour – on the contrary the great difficulty was to bear up against the current – which so far from <bec> helping us to the Asiatic side – set us

191: It is not clear to what Byron is here referring.
192: This letter was published in the Monthly Magazine, April 1821, pp.363-5.
down (right) towards the Archipelago. – – {Neither} M'. Ekenhead, <&> myself – <and> {nor} I will venture to add – any person on board the frigate from Captain (now

1:2

Admiral) Bathurst {downwards,} – had any notion of <the> {a} difference of the current on the Asiatic <and> side, of which M'. Turner speaks. – I never heard of it till this moment, {or I would have taken the other course.} Lieutenant Ekenhead’s sole motive – and mine also, for setting out from the European side was – that the little Cape above Sestos was a more prominent starting place – and the frigate which lay below close under the Asiatic castle – {formed} a better point of view for us to swim towards – and in fact we landed immediately below it. – – M'. Turner says – “Whatever is thrown into the Stream on this part of the European bank, must arrive at the Asiatic shore.” – This is so far from being the case – that it must arrive in the Archipelago – if left to the Current – although a strong wind in the Asiatic direction might have such an effect occasionally. – – M'. Turner attempted the passage from the Asiatic side and failed. “After five and twenty minutes in which

1:3

he did not advance a hundred yards he gave it up from complete exhaustion.” – This is very possible – – and might have occurred {to him} just as readily on the European side. – – – He should have set out a couple of miles higher – and would then have come out below the European castle . – I particularly stated – and M'. Hobhouse has done so also – that we were obliged to make the {real} passage of {one} mile – {extend to} between three and four – owing to the force of the stream. – – I can assure M'. Turner that his Success would have given me great pleasure – as it <tended> would have added one more instance – to the proof of the practicability. – It is not quite fair in him to infer – that because he failed – Leander could not succeed. – There are {still} four instances on record – A Neapolitan – a young Jew – M'. Ekenhead – & myself – the two last done in the presence of hundreds of English Witnesses. – – With regard to the difference

1:4

of the current – I perceived none – it is favourable to the Swimmer on neither side – but may be <subdued by pursuing it> {stemmed} – <and> by plunging into the Sea – a considerable way above the opposite point of the coast which the Swimmer wishes to make, <but> but still bearing up against it; it <chas overcome> {is <very> strong} but – if you calculate well <it will carry you> you may reach land. – – – – – <in my <<case>> and by my own experience as well as> My own experience & that of others – – {bids me pronounce} the passage of Leander <was> perfectly practicable; – any young man in good health – and tolerable skill in swimming might succeed in it {from either side.} – – I was three hours in swimming across the Tagus which is much more hazardous, being two hours {longer than the passage of the Hellespont. – – – –} Of what may be done in swimming I will mention one more instance. – In <19/8> 1818 – The Chevalier Mengaldo (a Gentleman of Bassano) <and> a good Swimmer wished to swim <with an English Gentleman> {with} my friend M'. Alexander Scott and myself. As he seemed particularly anxious on the subject we indulged him. – We all three started from the Island of the Lido and

2:1

swam to Venice. – At the entrance of the Grand Canal – Scott and I were a good way ahead – and we saw no more of our foreign friend – which however was of no consequence – as there <were> was a Gondola to hold his clothes and pick him up – Scott swam on <to> [till past] the Rialto – where he got out – less from fatigue than from chill – having been four hours in the water – without rest or stay – except what is to be obtained by floating on one’s back – this being the condition of our performance. – I continued my course on to Santa Chiara – {comprising} the whole of the Grand Canal – (beside the distance from the Lido) and got out where the Laguna once more opens to Fusina. – I had been in the water {by my watch} without help or rest – {& never touching ground or boat} four hours and twenty minutes. – To this Match and during the greater part of its performance M'. Hoppner the Consul General was witness – and it is well known to many others. – –

2:2
Mr. Turner can easily verify the fact – if he thinks it worth while – by referring to Mr. Hoppner. – The distance we could not accurately ascertain – it was of course considerable. – – <Now> I crossed the Hellespont in one hour and ten minutes only. – <When> I am now ten years older in time and twenty in constitution – than I was when I passed the Dardanelles – and yet two years ago – – I was capable of <rec> swimming four hours and twenty minutes – and I am sure that I could have continued two hours longer though I [had on a pair of trowsers – an accouterment which by no means assists the performance.] My two companions were also, four hours in the water – – Mengaldo <might> [might] be about thirty years of age – Scott about six and twenty. – – With this experience [in swimming at different periods of life] not only upon the Spot – but elsewhere – [of various persons,] what is there to make me doubt that Leander’s exploit was perfectly practicable? – [If three individuals did more than the passage of the Hellespont why should he have done less?] <But M.> But Mr. Turner failed – and naturally seeking

2:3

a plausible reason for his failure – <and> [lays the blame on the Asiatic side of the Strait. – –] To me the cause is evident. – He tried to swim directly across – instead of going higher up to take the vantage. – He might as well have tried to fly over Mount Athos. – – – – –

That a young Greek of the heroic times – in love – and with his limbs in full vigour <should> [might] have succeeded in such an attempt is neither wonderful nor doubtful. – Whether he attempted it or not is another question – because he might have had a small boat to save him the trouble. – – – –

I am yrs. very truly

Byron

P.S.

Mr. Turner says that <Leander> {the} swimming from Europe to Asia – was “the easiest part of the task” I doubt whether Leander found it so – as it was the return – however he had several hours between the intervals.

The argument of Mr. T. “that higher up or lower down the strait widens so considerably that he would save little labour by his starting” is only good for indifferent swimmers – a man of any practice or skill – will always consider the distance <far> less than the <direction> {strength} of the stream. – If Ekenhead & myself had thought of crossing at the narrowest point [instead of going up [{ to the Cape}] above it] we <might> [should] have been swept down to Tenedos. – – – – – The Strait is however not <so very> {extremely} wide – even Where it broadens above and below the forts. – As we were} [the frigate was] stationed some time in the Dardanelles waiting for the firman – I bathed often in the strait subsequently to our traject – and generally on the Asiatic side without perceiving the greater strength of {the} opposite>ing Stream {by} which the <xxxx> {diplomatic} traveller palliates his own failure. – – An amusement in the {small} bay which opens immediately below the Asiatic fort was to dive for the Land tortoises which we flung in on purpose – as they amphiously crawled along the bottom. – This does not argue any greater violence of current than on the European shore. [With regard to] the modest insinuation that we chose the European side as “easier” <is> – I appeal to M. Hobhouse and Admiral Bathurst if it be true or no? {(poor Ekenhead being since dead)}194 – had we been aware of any such difference of Current as is asserted – we would at least have proved it – and were not likely to have given it up in {the} twenty five minutes of Mr. T.’s own experiment. The <fa> secret of all this is – that Mr. Turner failed and that we succeeded – and he is consequently

3:1

3) disappointed – and {seems} not unwilling to overshadow whatever little merit there might be in our Success. – – Why did he not try the European side? – If he had succeeded there after failing on the Asiatic his plea would have been more graceful and gracious. – Mr. T. may find what fault {he pleases}

194: Lt. Ekenhead died in a drunken fall at Malta, within weeks of swimming the Hellespont with B. He had just been promoted Captain, and was celebrating.
with my poetry – or my politics – or any xxxx that he pleases but I recommend him to leave all aquatic matters reflections till he is able to swim “five and twenty against the stream minutes” without being exhausted though I believe he is the first (modern) Tory who ever swain “against the Stream” for half the time.

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, February 26th 1821:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43492; LJ V 253-4; BLJ VIII 85-6)

Ravenna. February 26th, 1821.

Dear Moray –

Over the second Note viz – the one on Lady M. Montague – I leave you a complete discretionary power of omission altogether or curtailment, as you please – since it may be scarcely chaste enough for the Canting prudery of the day. – The first note on a different subject you had better append to the letters – – – Let me know what your Utican Senate say, and acknowledge all the packets.

yrs. ever.
Byron

[turn over

[First side, left-hand half, inverted:]

Write to Moore and ask him for my lines to him beginning with

“My Boat is on the shore

they have been published incorrectly – you may publish them. – – – – I have written twice to Thorwaldsen without any answer! – Tell Hobhouse so – he was paid four years ago – you must address some (below two-line “address”:) English at Rome upon the subject – I know none there myself.

1:2

Ode on the 2d. January 1821
Upon this day I married & full sore – Repent that marriage but my fathers more.

or

Upon this day I married and deplore That marriage deeply but my father’s more.

[scrawlf]
On the same day to Medea.
This day of all our days has done The most for me and you
Tis just six years since we were one –
And five since we were two.

[scrawlf]

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, March 1st 1821:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43492; LJ V 254-6; BLJ VIII 87-8)

Ravenna – <February> March 1st, 1821.

Dr Moray –

After the Stanza near the close of Canto 5th. which ends with

“Has quite the contrary effect on Vice”

Insert the following.

Thus in the East they are extremely strict

195: “Angleterre” underlined many times, as if in anger.
And Wedlock and a Padlock mean the same
Excepting only when the former’s picked
It never can be <repair> [replaced] in proper frame,
Spoilt, <lik> as a pipe of Claret is when <pricked> [pricked]
But then their own Polygamy’s to blame,
Why don’t they knead two virtuous souls for life,
Into that moral Centaur, Man and Wife?\footnote{196}

I have received the remainder of the Hints without the Latin – and without the Note upon Pope from the Letter to the E. B. M. – – Instead of this you send the lines on Jeffrey\footnote{197} – though you knew so positively that they were to be

omitted – that I left the direction that they should be <so> [cancelled] appended to my power of Attorney to you previously to [my] leaving England – and in case of my demise before the publication of the ”Hints”.
Of course they must be omitted – and I feel vexed that they were sent. –
Has the whole English text been sent regularly continued from the part broken off in the first proofs? –
And Pray request M’. Hobhouse to adjust the Latin to the English – the imitation is so close – that I am unwilling to deprive it of it’s principal merit, it’s closeness. – –
I look upon it and my Pulci as by far the best things of my doing – you will not think so – and get frightened for fear I shall charge accordingly – but I know that they will not be popular – – so don’t be afraid – – publish

them together. – – –
The enclosed letter will make you laugh. – – Pray answer it for me & secretly – not to mortify him. –
Tell M’. Balfour that I never wrote for a prize in my life – and that the very thought of it would make me write worse than the worst Scribbler. – As for the [Ms. tear: “twen=”]ty pounds he wants to gain – [Ms. tear: “you may”?] send them [to him] for me – and deduct them in reckoning with M’. Kinnaird. –
Deduct also your {own} bill, for books and powders & c. & c. Which must be considerable. – – –
Give my love to Sir W. Scott – & tell him to write more novels; – pray send out Waverley and the Guy M. – and the Antiquary – – It is five years since I have had a copy – – –
I have read all the others forty times. – – –

[above address:] Have you received all my packets – on Pope, letters, & c. & c. & c.? – – –
I write in great haste.

[y’st. ever [scrawl]
[on crease:]]

[inversed below address:] P.S. – I have had a long letter from Hodgson who it seems has also taken up Pope – and adds ”the liberties I have taken with your poetry [in this pamphlet] are no more than I might have ventured in those delightful days & c. – that may very well be – but if he has said anything [that] I don’t like – I’ll Archbishop of Granada him. – I am in a polemical humour. – –

\textbf{Byron to Murray, and to James Perry, from Ravenna, March 2nd 1821:}
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43492; LJ V 256-7; BLJ VIII 89-90)
\textit{These two letters are on the same sheet. His letter to Perry could not make his feelings about the Drury Lane audiences clearer.}

Murray – This was the beginning of a letter which I meant for Perry – but stopt short – hoping you would be able to prevent the theatres. – Of course you need not send it – but it explains to you my
feelings on the subject – you say that “there is nothing to fear let them do what they please” that is to say that you would see me damned with great tranquility – you are a fine fellow –

Ravenna. January 22\textsuperscript{d}, 1821

Dear Sir,

I have received a strange piece of news which cannot be more disagreeable to your Public than it is to me. – My Letters and the Gazettes do me the honour to say that it is the intention of some of the London Managers to bring forward on the Stage the poem of “Marino Faliero &c.” – which was never intended for such an exhibition – and I trust will never undergo it. – – It is certainly unfit for it. – – I have never written but for the {solitary} reader – and require no experiments for applause beyond his silent approbation. – – \textit{<As> [Since] such an attempt to drag me forth as a Gladiator in the Theatrical Arena – is a violation of all the courtesies of Literature – I trust that the impartial part of the Press will step between me and this pollution. – I say pollution – because every violation of a right is such} – and I claim \textit{<xxxxx> <as a writer>} my right as an author to prevent what I have written from being turned into a Stage-play. – I have too much respect for the Public to permit this of my own free will. – Had I sought their favour it would have been by a Pantomine. – – – –

1:2 [top:]

I have said that I write only for the readers – Beyond this I cannot consent to any publication – or to the abuse of any publication of mine to the purpose of Histrionism. – The applause of an audience would give me no pleasure – their disapprobation might however give me pain. – The wager is \{therefore\} not equal. – You may perhaps say – “how can this be? – if their disapprobation gives pain – their praise might afford pleasure?” – By no means. – The kick of an Ass, or the Sting of a \textit{<w/>Wasp} may be painful to \textit{<One>} \{those\} who would find nothing agreeable in the Braying of the one – or in the Buzzing of the other. – – –

This may not seem a courteous comparison – but I have no other ready – and it comes naturally. – – – –

Murray to Byron, from 50, Albemarle Street, London, March 2\textsuperscript{nd} 1821:

(Source: text from NLS Ms.43497; LJM 386)

Milord / Milord Byron / poste restante / Ravenna / Italie // arrived: Forli 25 Mar

Murray answers Byron’s of February 12th.

London March 2 1821

Dear Lord Byron

Your Letter of yesterday – Feb 12 – is like yourself & makes me perfectly easy – I shall give Kinnaird a Thousand Guineas – for the Tragedy Dante & the Po – which I am printing in one volume & publish next week – I have received the Fifth Canto of Don Juan & will now print the three together & publish – adding the Pulci – translation & original – & Dante – The Letter about Pope was read yesterday by Mr Gifford to whom I took it the moment after its arrival – he likes it very much & told me to print it immediately & Mr Gifford will take care to see it carefully through the Press – I now inclose the final part of a third pamphlet by Bowles more insane if possible than the former article in the Quarterly – but hitherto <without> he has abstained from naming him – I shall observe strictly your instructions regarding the Tragedy if I observe any intention of acting it – it is certainly a great oversight in our Copyright law

I shall send you some very interesting works in a few day \textit{Ld Waldengraves Memoirs}\textsuperscript{199} are the most beautiful in the Language & \textit{Ld Orford’s}\textsuperscript{200} most delectable

I fear the poor Italians will make a sad business of it –

I remain dearest Sir

your Lordship’s faithful Servant

John Murray

198: B. employs ten emphatical dashes.


Murray to Byron, from 50, Albermarle Street, London, March 6th 1821:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43497; LJM 387-8)
[Milord / Milord Byron / poste restante / Ravenna / Italie]
Murray answers Byron’s of February 16th.

London March 6 1821

Dear Lord Byron

I am very much obliged by your kind Letter of Feb. 16 and you may be assured that I will pay every attention of all kinds to your friends Signor Curioni and Signora Tarascelli – but it is now so much the fashion to patronise persons of their class that they will soon grow beyond my reach but I may assist them with sober friendliness – Your history of the plan of the progress of Don Juan is very entertaining but I am clear for sending to Hell – because he may favour us with the Characters whom he finds there – You are as you always have been completely liberal in my terms & you say with justice that I have had no cause for fighting shy upon this point – – Hobhouse is also very gentlemanly but I don’t know you when I negotiate with M’ Kinnaird.

Next week the Traged will be finally ready & Don Juan 3 – 4 – 5 in a few days after – & I will tell what is said – M’ Johanna Baillie has just put forth a Volume of Metrical Legends which is absolute trash – so much so that I hardly shall send it to you – It will make Belzoni very happy that you have mentioned him – he is now preparing to exhibit all his Egyptian Curiosities at Bullochs Musæeum – & to give a fac-simile of two Chambers of the Tombs of the Kings at Thebes – A very extraordinary trial took Place yesterday at Nottingham wch is not yet in the papers – a Man, marries his own daughter who having a Lover afterwards induces him to murder her father – & it is the trial for murder that has brought it out – I will cut the best report out of the papers & inclose it

I have just had Galignani with me another fellow has printed yr Works beautifully in 3 Vols 8° like my Edition – made Fac-similes of plates – & sells it for 18 franks – I believe I must let Galignani have your Lordships assignment – & I will thank you to give me one to him for the Tragedy – The Letter of Bowles I hope to have this night – I will make the alteration suggested by your Letter of today.

With best Compliments & entreating that you will spare me & vowing never to empigramatize on you any more I remain
Dear Lord Byron
your obliged & faithful
friend & Servant
John Murray

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, March 9th 1821:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43492; LJ V 257-8; BLJ VIII 90)
[To, John Murray [Ms. tear: “Esq”] / 50 Albermarle Street. / London. / Angleterre. / Inghilterra.]

Illustrious Moray –

You are requested with the “advice of friends” to continue to patch the enclosed “Addenda” into my letter to you on the Subject of Bill. Bowles’s Pope &c. – – I think that it may be inoculated into the body of the letter with a little care – Consult – & engraf it. – – – – [Ms. tear: “I’"] enclose you the proposition of a Mr. [Ms. tear: “Fe”]arman one of y’. brethren – there is a civil ge[Ms. tear: “ntlem”]an for you.

y°. [scrawl / scrawl]

201: Hobhouse still wants to keep in with Murray: Kinnaird is more ruthless.
202: Joanna Baillie, Metrical Legends of Exalted Characters (Longman, March 1821).
203: Mu. is being both sensational and inaccurate; the trial was at Northampton, and incest was not mentioned.
Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, March 12th 1821:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43492; LJ V 258; BLJ VIII 92)
[To, John Murray Esq / 50 Albemarle Street. / London. / Angleterre. / Inghilterra.]
Ravenna. Marzo 1821 –

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, March 13th-16th 1821:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43492; LJ V 258-62; BLJ VIII 92-5)
[To, John Murray Esq / 50. Albemarle Street. / London. / Angleterre. / Inghilterra.]

Byron demands an insert, and then gives Murray the option not to include it. He lists examples of Pope’s brilliance.

Shakespeare – Pope – and Burns – than in Dante and Alfieri – &c. &c.” & so on. – –

Or if you please – perhaps you had better omit the whole of the {latter} digression on the vulgar poets – and <and> insert only as far as the end of the Sentence upon Pope’s Homer – where I prefer it to Cowper’s – and quote Df. Clarke in favour of it’s accuracy. – – – –

Upon all these points – take an opinion – take the Sense (or nonsense) of your learned visitants – and act thereby – I am very tractable – – in prose. – –

Whether I have made out the case for Pope I know not – but I am very sure that I have been zealous in the attempt. –

If it comes to the proofs – – we shall beat the Blackguards – I will show more imagery in twenty lines of Pope than in any equal length of quotation in English poesy – & that in

<ae> places where they least expect it, – – <I mean> {for instance –} in his lines on Sporus205 – now –
do just read them over – – – the subject is of no consequence – (whether it be Satire or Epic) we are talking of poetry and imagery – from Nature and Art. –

204: “If I were asked to define what this gentlemanliness is, I should say that it is only to be defined by examples: of those who have it, and those who have it not. In life I should say that most military men have it, and few naval; that several men of rank have it, and few lawyers …” – Letter to John Murray.
205: All B.’s quotations are from Pope, Epistle to Arbuthnot, 309-33:

Yet let me flap this bug with gilded wings,
This painted child of dirt, that stinks and stings;
Whose buzz the witty and the fair annoys,
Yet wit ne’er tastes, and beauty ne’er enjoys;
So well-bred spaniels civilly delight
Now – mark –
the images separately &
arithmetically. – –

1 The thing of Silk –
2 Curd of Ass’s Milk
3 The Butterfly –
4 The Wheel –
5 Bug with gilded wings. –
6 Painted Child of dirt. –
7 Whose <The> Buzz, <the witty &c.>
8 Well=bred Spaniels –
9 Shallow streams run dimpling
10 Florid impotence. –
11 Prompter – – Puppet squeaks –
12 The Ear of Eve. –
13 Familiar toad –.
14 Half=froth, – half=venom, spits himself abroad. –
15 Fop at the toilet – –
16 Flatterer at the board
17 Amphibious thing –
18 Now trips a lady
19 Now struts a Lord. –
20 A Cherub’s face –
20 A reptile all the rest, –
22 <Eve’s tempter> The Rabbins –
23 Pride that licks the dust.

“Beauty that shocks you – parts that none will trust
Wit that can creep – – and Pride that licks the dust.”

Now is there a line of all the passage without the most forcible imagery? – (for his purpose) – look at
the variety at the poetry – of the passage – – at the imagination – – there is <not> {hardly} a line <of
all that passage> – from which a painting might not be made – and is. –
But this is nothing in comparison with his higher passages in the Essay on Man – & many of his other
poems – {serious & comic}. There never was such an unjust outcry in this world – as that which
<xxxxd> these Scoundrels are trying against Pope. – – – – –

In mumbling of the game they dare not bite.
Eternal smiles his emptiness betray.
As shallow streams run dimpling all the way.
Whether in florid impotence he speaks,
And, as the prompter breathes, the puppet squeaks;
Or at the ear of Eve, familiar toad!
Half-froth, half-venom, spits himself abroad,
In puns or politics, or tales, or lies,
Or spite, or smut, or rhymes, or blasphemies.
His wit all see-saw, between that and this,
Now high, now low, now master up, now miss,
And he himself one vile antithesis.
Amphibious thing! that, acting either part,
The trifling head, or the corrupted heart,
Fop at the toilet, flatterer at the board,
Now trips a lady, and now struts a lord.
Eve’s tempter thus the Rabbins have express’d,
A cherub’s face, a reptile all the rest,
Beauty that shocks you, parts that none will trust,
Wit that can creep, and pride that licks the dust.
In the letter to you upon Bowles &c. – insert these {which} follow (under the place {as a Note} where I am speaking of Dyer’s Gronger Hill – and the <forcing> {use} of artificial imagery in illustrating Nature) ‘Corneille’s celebrated lines on Fortune –

“Et comme Elle a l’éclat du Verre
Elle en <at> a la fragilité.”

are <another> a further [text curls up right-hand side of page:] instance of the noble use which may be made of artificial imagery, {&} quite equal to any taken from Nature.

2:1

2.) Ask M’. Gifford – if in the 5th. act of “the Doge” you could not contrive (where the Sentence of the Veil is past) to insert the following lines in M F’s answer. – – –

But let it be so. – It will be in vain –
The Veil which blackens o’er the blighted name
And hides – or seems to hide – these lineaments
Shall draw more Gazers than the thousand portraits
Which glitter round it in their painted <purple> {trappings} –
Your delegated Slaves – the people’s tyrants. – 207

Which will be best?

- painted trappings –
- or –
- pictured – purple –
- or –
- pictured trappings –
- or –
- painted purple. –

Perpend – and let me know. – – –
I have not had any letter – from you – which I am anxious for; – to know whether

2:1

you have received my letters – and packets – the letter on Bowles’s Pope &c. &c.
Let me hear from you. –

yours. truly
[scribbled]

P.S.
Upon public matters – here – I say little. – You will <know> {hear} soon enough of a general row throughout Italy. – – There never was a more foolish step than the Expedition to N. 208 – by these fellows. – – –

P.S. from Byron to Murray, no date, 1821:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43492; BLJ VIII 95)
[To, John Murray Esq. / 50 Albemarle Street. / London. / Angleterre. / Inghilterra.]

P.S. – I wish you to propose to Holmes the miniature painter to come out to me this spring. – – I will pay his expenses – and any sum in reason. – –
I wish him to take my daughter’s picture – (who is in a convent) and the Countess G’s. – and the head of a peasant Girl – which {latter} would make a study for Raphael. – It is a complete peasant face – but an Italian peasant’s – and quite in the Raphael Fornarina style. – – Her figure is tall, but rather large – and not at all comparable to her face – which is really superb. – She is <but> not seventeen and I am

206: Corneille, Polyeucte, adapting Godeau.
207: Marino Faliero, V i 500-5.
208: “Naples”. 

anxious to have her likeness while it lasts. – Madame G<u/i> is also very handsome – but it is quite in a different style – completely blonde and fair – very uncommon in Italy – yet not an English fairness but more like a Swede or a Norwegian. – Her figure too – particularly the bust is uncommonly good. – – –

Murray to Byron, from 50, Albemarle Street, London, March 20th 1821:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43497; Smiles I 420-1; LJM 390-1)

Dear Lord Byron

The pamphlet on Bowles is deemed excellent & is to be published on Saturday – the note on Lady Montague though also very good, Mr Gifford recommends to be suppressed – The Letter about the Helespont will appear in the next London Magazine – The fatal death of its late editor, poor Scott <your>, in a Duel<el>, your Lordship will have read of – he has left a widow – a very superior Woman & two infant Children without a Shilling – <if y> A Committee of wch Sir Ja<ms>Mackintosh is the head & yr humble Servant the tale – are endeavouring to form a subscription for them & if you please I shall be glad to put your Lordships name down for £10 –

The Doge of Venice will now come out, with the Prophecy of Dante at a most happy time when we are now just interested for Italy – nothing could be better – it is nearly worked off & will be out next week.

I long to know what you propose to do will these wars – to which our lives may not see the End – for all Europe will mingle indiscriminately – bring you to England or will Lady Noels Death which they tell me from good authority must immediately take place –

By the way Hobhouse spoke to Lord Grey about the impropriety of allowing – a play not intended for performance to be Acted on the stage Earl Grey spoke to the Lord Chancellor – who said that he would grant an injunction –

We as yet can get no certain News from Italy –

I am my Lord

y’ faithful Servant

Jno Murray

Murray to Byron, from 50, Albemarle Street, London, March 27th 1821:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43497; LJM 394-5)

Dear Lord Byron

Yours of the 1st March – & a later one of the 3rd – have reached me, the latter half an hour ago – the first contained an addit’ stanza Stanza to Juan – & the Letter from Balfour, from Gifford – I will make enquiry about the man before I send the £20 to him – I gave your love to Sir Walter who reciprocates with the most faithful steady warmth – I sent the addition to the Letter, without reading it to the printer for the Letter was advertised for publication this day & was on the point of issuing – It is very gratifying to me to be able to say that Gifford, Scott, Merivale Sotheby, Morritt other few who have seen it consider it admirably done – Your prose is in the very happiest & most original taste & Style & you have in the most lively & convincing & gentlemanly manner completely proved your point – Indeed yr prose is excellent – the Preface to the Doge equally in good taste – I am not sorry for this elegant tract’s preceding by a few Days the Doge – I got all the fair Sheets compleat on Saturday of this Tragedy – I was alone on Sunday & devoted my quiet to it – and I assure you I could not stop until I had finished it – it is monstrously fine & very interesting – The Doge is admirably portrayed &
his Wife perfectly original & beautiful – I account for a little disappointment in my first & second reading from the peculiar expectations which I had previously conceived of it as a Tragedy – I now read it as a Poem & have been compleatly delighted – I shall launch it wth the fullest confidence that it will weather the Storm of any Criticism & as being fully worthy of you – besides its whole tone & character – discovers a new Vein in your Genius – I shall long to get some fair opinion of it to send you from the public – I believe I told you that Gifford desired me to tell you how very highly he estimates your Prose – & he always dwells

1:3

with delight upon the unrivalled purity of the Blank Verse of this Tragedy –
I send a parcel with Waverley &c I will be glad to have your Lordships opinion of Lord Waldegrave? How like you Kenilworth?

I am afraid that Mr Rogers will be sadly mortified at the notice of him in the pamphlet & I would gladly have omitted the “Venerable” & Nestor if I had dared209 – perhaps in subsequent editions you will give countervailing praise – he has just been here & taken it in his pocket odds Squibs & Crackers – I am convinced that your Tragedy is beautiful –

Ever Dearest Sir
yr Lordships obliged &
faithful Servant
Jno. Murray

April 21st 1821: Marino Faliero and The Prophecy of Dante published.

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, April 21st 1821:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43492; LJ V 265-6; BLJ VIII 99)
The address is enormous, taking up most of a 36 x 24cm sheet. Byron encloses Observations upon Observations of the Rev’d W. L. Bowles &c.

[To, / John Murray Esq / 50 Albemarle Street. / London. / Angleterre. / Inghilterra.]

Ravenna. April 21st.
1821

Illustrious Moray –
I enclose you another letter on “Bowles”. – But I premise that it is not like the former – and I am not at all [Ms. tear: “(sure)”] how much – if any of it – should be published. Upon this point you can consult with M’. Gifford – and think twice before you publish it at all. – Pray send me some more pounds weight of Soda powders – – I drink them in Summer by dozens.
y’st. truly
B.

P.S.
You may make my subscription to M’. Scott’s widow &c., thirty instead of the proposed ten pounds – but do not put down my name – put down N. B. only – The reason is, that I have mentioned him in the enclosed pamphlet – it would look indecquate. –
I would give more – but my disappointments of last year – about Rochdale – and the transfer from the funds – render me {more} economical for the present. –

P.S. 2d
By next post I will send you the threatening Italian trash alluded to in the enclosed letter – – You can make a note of it for the page alluding to the subject – I had not room for it in this cover – nor time.

——

209: “In the year 1812, more than three years after the publication of English Bards and Scotch Reviewers, I had the honour of meeting Mr Bowles in the house of our venerable host of Human Life, &c., the last Argonaut of Classic English poetry – and the Nestor of our inferior race of living poets” – Letter to John Murray.
Murray to Byron, from 50, Albermarle Street, London, April 24th 1821:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43497; LJM 397)
[Milord / Milord Byron / Poste Restante / Italie // arrived: Forli 10 May]

April 24 – 1821

My Lord
I have waited to see what effect Your Letter would produce and the four inclosures are the result.
I have received the additions & have forwarded them with a Printed Answer with Copies of the
Doge in a parcel –

The Doge is admired beyon my most sanguine as P’ my re cantation Letter I expected –
I have just come to town to prevent Elliston from Acting the Tragedy & tomorrow hope to succeed
– on Friday

1:4 [2 and 3 have the address]

You shall hear – if you had <N/>written nothing but this Tragedy you would be where you now are
Most truly yr Lordships
faithful Ser’
Jno Murray

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, April 26th 1821:
(Source: text from B.L.Ashley 4747; LJ V 269-71; LJ V 269-71; BLJ VIII 102-3)
[To, / John Murray Esqre / 50 Albermarle Street / London / Angleterre / Inghilterra]

Byron answers Murray’s of March 27th. He has second thoughts about Keats, and advises
Murray to come to an arrangement with Moore over the Memoirs. This letter was sold to
T.J.Wise by John Murray in January 1932.

Rª April 26th. 1821.

Dear Moray, –

I sent you by last postis a large packet – which will not do for publication (I suspect) being as
the Apprentices say – “damned low”. – I put off also for a week or two sending the Italian Scrawl
which will form a <n/>Note to it. – The reason is that letters being opened I wish to “bide a wee” – – –
Well have you published the trag[edy].? and does the letter take? – –
Is it true – what Shelley writes me that poor John Keats died at Rome of the Quarterly Review? I am
{very} sorry for it – though I think he took the wrong line as a poet – and was spoilt by Cockneyfying
and Surburbing – and versifying Tooke’s Pantheon and Lempriere’s Dictionary – – –

1:2

I know by experience that a savage review is Hemlock to a sucking author – and the one on me –
(which produced the English Bards &c.) knocked me down – but I got up again. – Instead of bursting a
blood=vessel – I drank three bottles of Claret – and began an answer – finding that there was nothing in
the Article for which I could lawfully knock Jeffrey on the head in an honourable way. – However I
would not be the person who wrote the homicidal article – for all the honour & glory in the World, –
though I by <no> means approve of that School of Scribbling – which it treats upon. – –
You see the Italians here made a sad business of it. – All owing to treachery and disunion amongst
themselves. – It has given me great vexation – The Execrations heaped upon the Neapolitans by the
other Italians are

1:3

quite in Unison with those of the rest of Europe. – – – – – – –
M”. Leigh writes that Lady Noelill is getting well again. – See what it is to have luck in this world. – I
hear that Rogers is not pleased with being called “venerable – a pretty fellow – if <he/>I had thought
{that} he would have been so absurd – I should have spoken of him as defunct – as he really is. – Why
betwixt the years he really lived – and those he has been dead – Rogers has been upon the Earth
seventy three years and upwards\(^{210}\) as I have proved in a postscript of my letter \{by this post\} to Mr. Kinnaird. – – –

Let me hear from you – and send me some Soda= powders for the Summer dilution. – Write soon. – yours ever & truly

B

P.S. – Your \{latest\} packet of books is on it’s way here but not arrived.
Kenilworth excellent. \(^{211}\) – Thanks for the pocket=books of

1:4

which I have made presents – to those ladies who like cuts – and landscapes and all that; I have got an Italian book or two which I should like to send you if I had an opportunity. – – –

I am not at present in the very highest health. Spring probably – so I have lowered my diet – and taken to Epsom Salts. As you say my “prose” is good – why don’t you treat with Mr. Moore for the \{reversion of the\} Memoirs – conditionally – recollect – not to \{be\} published before decease. – He has the permission to dispose of them and I advised him to do so. –

May 7th 1821: Byron starts and lays aside The Vision of Judgement.

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, May 8th 1821:
(Source: Ms. not found; text from LJ V 275-6; BLJ VIII 109-11)

Thorwaldsen’s bust – Hobhouse’s property – is being shipped, not to Hobhouse, but to Murray.

Dear Moray, – Pray publish these additional notes. It is of importance to the question in dispute, and even, if you can, print it on a separate page and distribute it to the purchasers of the former copies.

I have had no letters from you for this month past. Acknowledge this by post; as this note is worth the whole pamphlet as an example of what we are to prove against the Anti-christian anti-popists.

Yours,

BYRON

P.S. – I copy the following postscripts from Moore’ s latest letter to me of April 14th. “Since I wrote the above, Lady E. F. sent me your letter, and I have run through it. How the devil could Bowles say that I agreed with his twaddling, and (still more strange) how could you believe him?” There! what do you think of this? You may show this to the initiated, but not publish it in print – yet at least – till I have M.’s permission.

Get and send me, if possible, Tom Tyers’s amusing tracts upon Pope and Addison. \(^{212}\) I had a copy in 1812 which was, I know not how, lost, and I could not obtain another. It is a scarce book, but has run through three editions I think. It is in the Boswell style, but more rapid; very curious, and indeed necessary if you think of a new life of Pope. Why don’t Gifford undertake a Life and edition? It is more necessary than that of Ben Jonson. Nobody can do it but Gifford, both from his qualities and turn of mind.

I have not sent you the Italian Scrap promised in my last letters, but will in a few posts.

Do you recollect the air of “How now, Madame Flirt?” in the Beggar’s Opera?

BOWLES.

"Why how now, Saucy Tom,
If you thus must ramble,
I will publish some
Remarks on Thomas Campbell.
Saucy Tom."

CAMPBELL.

"Why how now, Billy Bowles,
Sure the parson’s maudlin.

---

\(^{210}\) Rogers was born in 1763. He is fifty-seven, and B. is sixteen years out.

\(^{211}\) Scott’s novel was published in 1821.

\(^{212}\) Thomas Tyers, \textit{Historical Essay on Mr.Addison} (1783).
How can you (damn your souls) [To the public
Listen to his twaddling?
Billy Bowles!"

Thorwaldsen sent off the bust to be shipped from Leghorn last week. As it is addressed to your house and care you may be looking out for it, though I know not the probable time of the voyage in this Season of the year, which is one of light airs and breezes and calms in the Mediterranean.

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, May 10th 1821:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43492; LJ V 276-9; BLJ VIII 111-12)
[To, / John Murray Esq. / 50 Albemarle Street / London / Angleterre / Inghilterra]
The “packet” from Murray which Byron is here acknowledging cannot be dated. Byron is silenced by William Bowles’ gentlemanly manners, but tells a dirty story about him anyway.

yrs truly
[scrawl]213

May 10th. 1821. – Ravenna.

Dear Murray

I have just got your packet. – I am obliged to M. Bowles – & M. B. is obliged to me – for having restored him to good humour. – He is to write – & you to publish what you please – motto and subject – I desire nothing but fair play for all parties. – Of course, after the new tone of M. B. – you will not publish my defence of Gilchrist214 – it would be brutal to do so – after his urbanity – for it is rather {too} rough like his {own} attack upon G. – You may tell him what I say there of his Missionary (it is praised as it deserves) however – and if there {are} any passages not personal to Bowles – & yet bearing upon the question – you may add them to the reprint (if it is reprinted) of my {1st.} letter to you. – Upon this consult Gifford – & above all don’t let anything be added which can personally affect M. B. – In the enclosed notes – of

1:2

course what I say of the democracy of poetry cannot apply to {M.} Bowles – but to the Cockney and Water washing=tub Schools. –

Now what are we to think of Bowles’s story – and Moore’s!!! – they are at issue – is it not odd? – I have copied M’s postscript literally in my letter of the 8th. – – The anecdote of M. B. is as follows – & of course not for the public –

After dinner at Lord Lansdowne’s they were talking {one evening} as Sir Robert Walpole used to talk always. – Bowles said that after all love was the only thing worthy the risk of damnation. – “When I was a very young man (said he) a friend of mine would take me to Paris. – I was not very eager to go till he said that Paris contained the finest women in the world – and the kindest – We then set off. – It was deep winter – I was dying of all kinds of cold and inconvenience – but

1:3

still thought no more of it – when I heard perpetually that there were the finest women {in the world} to be had at Paris. – When we got to Paris – I sallied forth the first evening – and thinking {that} it was only to ask and have – I accosted several with the tenderest politeness – but whether my French or my figure displeased them – I know not – I had short answers or none at all. – I returned – disconsolate – but having dined – my love revived – whatever my hope might. – At last wound up to a pitch of {amatory} desperation, I rushed forth determined to bring the question to a point with the first fair {one} of whatever quality I met with. – – I had not gone far before I met with a lady=like modest=looking female – <but> whom I accosted as follows – “Madame – voulez vous foure?” she replied “Si vous plait Monsieur” in the softest accents – I did so, caught

1:4

a rousing p— – was laid up [for] two months – & returned perfectly persuaded that there were the finest women in the world at Paris.” — — — —

213: Having no space left at the end, B. signs off at the top of his first sheet.
214: This is Observations upon Observations.
This is “the tale as told {to} me” by Moore – and at least as good a story as Cibber’s of Pope. – –You may tell it again to M’ B – upon whom it reflects rather credit than otherwise for the humour of it. – – –

I hope and trust that Elliston won’t be <allowed> {permitted} to act the drama? – Surely he might have the grace to wait for Kean’s return before he attempted it – though even then I should be as much against the attempt as ever. – – –

I have got a small packet of books but neither Waldegrave – Orford – nor Scott’s Novels among them. – – Some Soda powders pray? – Why don’t you republish Hodgson’s C. Harold’s Monitor – and latino=mastix? – they are excellent – think of this – they are all for Pope. – –

Murray to Byron, from 50, Albemarle Street, London, May 11th 1821:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43497; LJM 399-400)
[Milord / Milord Byron / poste restante / Ravenna / Italie]
Murray answers Byron’s of April 21st. Marino Faliero has been acted.

Dear Lord Byron

I recently received safely the Second Letter on Pope – which I immediately sent to M’ Gifford – upon whom I called this morning and he told me <th> he thought it very interesting & exceedingly clever – there were parts certainly wch could not be published, but he desired me to get it set up instantly in print & then he would go over it with great care & give your Lordship his opinion –

I wrote <la> at different times lately acknowledging additions &c & I am now nearly completed a packet containing all that has been written respecting the Tragedy

1:2

which that No-Gentleman Elliston has so shamefully & vilely attempted to perform M’ Kinnaird wrote to you the history & I am prosecuting a Law Suit – I will send you documents immediately

The Tragedy is greatly admired

I am dear Lord Byron
most faithfully y’s
Jno Murray

[1:3 blank.]

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, May 14th 1821:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43492; BLJ VIII 116)
[To John Murray Esqre. / 50. Albemarle Street. / London. / Angleterre. / Inghilterra.]
The letter is on one sheet, with nothing but the address on one side and the text in three columns, B-A-C, the main part in the middle and the PS on each side.

May 14th. 1821

Dear Murray / A Milan paper states that the play has been represented & universally condemned. – As <cour> remonstrance has been vain – complaint would be useless. – I presume however for y’. own sake (if not for mine) that you and my other friends will have at least published my {different} protests against it’s being brought upon the stage at all – and have shown that Elliston (in spite of the writer) forced it upon the theatre. – It would be nonsense to say that this has not vexed me – a good deal, – but I am not dejected – and I shall not take the usual resource of blaming the public (which was in the right) or my friends for not preventing what they could not help – nor I neither – a forced representation by a Speculating Manager. – It is a pity that you did not show them it’s unfitness for {ye} stage before the play was published – & exact a promise from the managers not to act it. – In case of their refusal – we would not have published it at all.But this is too late.

y’s [scrawl]

[Left-hand side, at ninety degrees:] P.S. – I enclose {M’} Bowles’s letters – thank him in my name for their candour & kindness. – Also a letter for Hodgson – which pray forward. – The Milan paper states that “[I brought forward the play!!!]” – This is pleasanter still. – But don’t let yourself be worried about it – {and} if (as is likely) the folly of Elliston – checks the sale – I am ready to make any {deduction} – or the entire cancel of your agreement. – – –

[Right-hand side, at ninety degrees:] You will of course not publish my defence of Gilchrist – as after Bowles’s good humour upon the subject – it would be {too} savage. – Let me hear from you the
particulars, for as yet I have only the simple fact. – If you knew what I have had to go through here – on account of the failure of these rascally Neapolitans – you would be amused. – – – – –
But it is now apparently over. – They seemed disposed to throw the [text curls round, inverted across the top of the letter:] whole project and plans of these parts upon [Ms. tear.]. – – – – –

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, May 25th 1821:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43492; LJ V 297-9; BLJ VIII 126-7)
[To, J\textsuperscript{th} Murray Esq\textsuperscript{e}. / 50. Albemarle Street. / London. / Angleterre. / Inghilterra.]

Byron announces Sardanapalus, and, as with Marino Faliero, assures Murray that it’s not political.

R\textsuperscript{a} May 25\textsuperscript{th}. 1821.

M\textsuperscript{r}. Moray /
Since I wrote the enclosed a week ago – & for some weeks before – I have not [had] a line from you. – Now I should like to know upon what principle of common or uncommon feeling – you leave me without any information but what I can derive from garbled gazettes in English – & abusive ones in Italian (the Germans hating me as a Coal=heaver)\textsuperscript{215} while all this kick up has been <gon> going on about the play? – You shabby fellow!! – – Were it not for the letters from D. K. I should have been as ignorant as you are negligent. –
I send you an Elegy as follows

Behold the blessing of a lucky lot!
My play is damned – and Lady Noel not.

So – I hear Bowles has been abusing Hobhouse – if that’s the case he has broken the truce like Morillo’s successor\textsuperscript{216} – and I will cut him out <like> – <the> as Cochrane did the Esmeralda.\textsuperscript{217} – –
Since I wrote the enclosed packet – I have completed (but not co=)

1:2

=pied out) four acts of a new tragedy. – When I have finished the fifth – I will copy <clean over> it out. – – –
It is on the subject of “Sardanapalus” the last king of the Assyrians. – – –
The words Queen – & pavilion\textsuperscript{218} occur – but it is not an allusion to his Britannic Majesty – – as you may tremulously (for the admiralty custom) imagine. – – This you will one day see (if I finish it) as I have made Sardanapalus brave (<and> {though} voluptuous as history represents him) – <but> {and} also as amiable as my poor powers could render him. – So that it could neither be truth nor satire on any living monarch. – I have strictly preserved all the unities hitherto – & mean to continue them in the fifth if possible – but not for the Stage. – – –
you scruffy correspondent –

[very brief scrawl]

[1:3 blank.]

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, May 28th 1821:
(Source: text from Leeds Brotherton, photocopy; LJ V 300; BLJ VIII 127)
[To / John Murray Esqre / 50 Albemarle Street / London / Angleterre / Inghilterra]

Or favour of M\textsuperscript{r}. K. – – –

Ravenna. May 28\textsuperscript{th}. 1821.

Dear Moray / Since my last of ye. 26\textsuperscript{th}. or 25\textsuperscript{th}. I have dashed off my fifth act of y\textsuperscript{e}. tragedy called “Sardanapalus”. – But now comes ye copying over which may prove heavy work – heavy to y\textsuperscript{e}. writer as to the reader. – I have written to you at least 6 times sans answer – which proves you to be a – bookseller. – – I pray you to send me a copy of M\textsuperscript{r}. “Wrangham’s” reformation of “Langhorne’s Plutarch”\textsuperscript{219} – I have the Greek which is somewhat small of print and the Italian which is too heavy in style – as also false as a Neapolitan Patriot proclamation. – I pray you also to send me a life published

\textsuperscript{215}: A Carbonaro.
\textsuperscript{216}: Obscure. General Pablo Morillo fought at Trafalgar; who his “successor” was is a mystery.
\textsuperscript{217}: Refers to a Cochrane naval victory of 1820.
\textsuperscript{218}: Sardanapalus I ii ii.1, 308, 554, II i 51, et al.
\textsuperscript{219}: Mu. had published Francis Wrangham’s revision of John and William Langhorne’s Plutarch in 1813.
some years ago of the Magician Apollonius of T. <&c. &c.> 220 – It is in English, & – I think edited {or written} by what “Martin Marprelate” calls “a bouncing priest”. 221 – I shall trouble you no further with this sheet than ye. postage.

yrs. &c. B

P.S. – Since I wrote this I determined to <inclo> inclose it (as a half sheet) for M’. K. – who will have the goodness to forward it. – Besides it saves sealing wax – –

Murray to Byron, from 50, Albermarle Street, London, May 29th, 1821:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43497; LJM 400-1)
[Milord / Milord Byron / Poste restante / Ravenna / Italie]

Murray answers Byron’s of May 8th. He looks forward to receiving Thorwaldsen’s bust.

London, 29. May 1821

Dear Lord Byron

I have this day been favoured with your Lordships obliging communicaton of May 8 – to containing in particular a note to be added to the New Edition of the Letter or to be printed Separately which I will do referring to M’ Giffords revision. Some time ago I sent a parcel with all the newspapers containing opinions upon Faliero and the infamous conduct of M’ Elliston but I find that I was wrong in so doing for that papers can go only through the Post office & the probablity is that my parcel has been ripped up as contraband, as I took care to get two Copies of the Papers on this occasion I have now cut out from them all that relates to thus subject and have sent them in a parcel this day – and as the communication from Venice to Ravenna is probably uncertain I have now addressed the parcel to your Lordship – to the care of M’ Hoppner whom you will probably advise of this immediately – I have added a Copy of the Second Letter with Mr Giffords remarks – he says “I hope however Lord B will not continue to squander himself thus – when will he resume his majestic march, & shake the earth again”? If you intend proceedings, wait for

1:2

Bowles’s answer a new edition of which I expect tomorrow – he prints in the country – & let us have the whole digested against the winter for nothing will be attended too now but the Coronation – Your Lordships Letter is certainly very much liked.

I have ever since the nefarious performances of the Tragedy been engaged in attending my Solicitor & Council in arguimg & drawing up cases – and the Trial for I have determined to have a decision – and then having felt the Sense of so many members of parliament to be in our favour I hope to get a clause to this effect inserted in the new Copyright Act – Your Lordship will see by the Arguments at length inserted in the Times – the opinion of the Chancellor – at whose own suggestion to Lord Grey I applied & obtained an injunction – & yet who allowed the play to be performed in spite of it –

On the 2d of April last I sent a parcel containing Mannering – Waverley – Antiquary & Letter on Bowles – May 2 Doge & May 11 – 1 Doz Boxes Soda Powder – 11 Parrys Voyage

1:3
to the North Pole – Today I have sent Waldegrave222 – Lady Hervey223 (not yet published) &c Ant it monstrous good Bowles cringing to you & thinking he may kick Hobhouse as he likes – Hobhouse does not like it – & thinks of cutting his (Bowless) throat – Bowles too making an apology for the liberty he has taken [Ms. tear] your Lordship’s Motto” [Ms. tear] mistaking your Lines for [Ms. tear] written by Hobhouse

I have lately had the misfortune to lose my Second Son224 – but I cannot expect to go through the world with out participating in the Misfortunes of all around me –

God bless you

221: The phrase is from Isaac D’Israeli’s Calamities of Authors (1812).
223: Letters of Mary Lepel, Lady Hervey (published by Mu., June 1821).
224: Mu.’s second son was called William; nothing else is known about him.
Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, May 31st 1821:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43492; BLJ VIII 128-9)
[To, John Murray Esq.” / 50 Albemarle Street. / London. / Angleterre. / Inghilterra.]
Byron answers Murray’s of May 11th. He sends this letter with Sardanapalus.

R°. May 31st. 1821.

Dear Moray /

You say you have written often – I have only received yours. of the eleventh – which is very short. – By this post – – – in five packets I sent you the tragedy of Sardanapalus – – which is written in a rough hand – perhaps Mrs. Leigh can help you to decipher it. – – You will please to acknowledge it by return of post. – You will remark that the Unities are all strictly observed. – The Scene passes in the same Hall always. – The time – a Summer’s night about nine hours – or less, though it begins before Sunset – and ends after Sunrise. – –

In the third act – when Sardanapalus calls for a mirror to look at himself <once> in his <armour> armour – recollect – to quote the Latin passage from Juvenal upon Otho 225 – (a similar character who did the same thing) Gifford will help you to it. – The trait is perhaps too familiar – but it is historical (of Otho at least) & natural in an effeminate character. – – – –

Preface & c. & c. will be sent when I know of the arrival. – – For the historical account I refer you to Diodorus Siculus – from which you must have the chapters of the Story translated – as an explanation – and a note to the drama. – You write so seldom & so shortly – that you can hardly expect from me more than I receive

\[ys. truly\]

\[scrawl\]

P.S.

Remember me to Gifford – and say that I doubt that this M.S.S. will puzzle him to decipher it. – The Characters are quite different from any I have hitherto attempted to delineate. – – – –

You must have it copied out directly – as you best can – – & printed off in proofs (more than one) as I have retained no copy in my hands. – – With regard to the publication – I can only protest as heretofore against its’ being acted – it being expressly written not for the theatre. – – – – –

[1:3 blank.]

June 12th 1821: Byron starts The Two Foscari; he finishes it on July 9th.

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, June 14th 1821:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43492; LJ V 308; BLJ VIII 136)
[To, Jno Murray Esq”. / 50. Albemarle Street. / London. / Angleterre. / Inghilterra.]
Byron answers Murray’s of May 29th.

Ravenna. June 14th.

225: Juvenal, Satire II, 99-116, though Juvenal’s Otho is not at all like B.’s Sardanapalus: “Another holds in his hand a mirror like that carried by the effeminate Otho: a trophy of the Auruncan Actor, in which he gazed at his own image in full armour when he was just ready to give the order to advance—a thing notable and novel in the annals of our time, a mirror among the kit of Civil War! It needed, in truth, a mighty general to slay Galba, and keep his own skin sleek; it needed a citizen of highest courage to ape the splendours of the Palace on the field of Bebracium, and plaster his face with dough! Never did the quiver-bearing Semiramis the like in her Assyrian realm, nor the despairing Cleopatra on board her ship at Actium. No decency of language is there here: no regard for the manners of the table. You will hear all the foul talk and squeaking tones of Cybele; a grey-haired frenzied old man presides over the rites; he is a rare and notable master of mighty glutony, and should be hired to teach it. But why wait any longer when it were time in Phrygian fashion to lop off the superfluous flesh?”
Dear Murray /

I have resumed my “majestic march” (as Gifford is pleased to call it) in “Sardanapalus” which by the favour of Providence and the Post Office should be arrived by this time – if not interrupted. – It was sent on the 2d June – 12 days ago. – – –

Let me know because I had but that one copy. – Can your printers make out the M.S.? – I suppose long acquaintance with my scrawl may help them – if not – ask M’s. Leigh – or Hobhouse Or D. K. – they know my writing. – – –

The whole five acts were [sent] in one cover – ensured to England – [paying] forty five scudi here for the insurance. – – – –

I received some of y’t. parcels – – the Doge is longer than I expected – pray why did you print the face of M.’ C. by way of frontispiece? – It has almost caused a row between the Countess G. and myself. – – – And pray why did you

1:2

add the note about the Kelso woman’s “Sketches” – Did I not request you to omit it – the instant I was aware that the writer was a female? –

The whole volume looks very respectable – and sufficiently dear in price – but you do not tell me whether it succeeds – your first letter (before the performance) said that it was succeeding far beyond all anticipation – but this was before the piracy of Elliston – which (for anything I know as I have had no news – y’s. letters with papers not coming) may have affected the circulation. – – –

I have read Bowles’s answer – – I could easily reply – but it would lead to a long discussion – & in the course of which I should perhaps lose my temper – which I would rather not do with so civil & forbearing an antagonist. – I suppose he will mistake being silent for silenced. –

1:3

I wish to know when you publish the remaining things in M.S.? – – – –

I do not mean the prose – but the verse. –

I am truly sorry to hear of y’s. domestic loss – but (as I know by experience) all attempts at condolence in such cases are merely varieties of solemn impertinence. – There is nothing in this world but Time. –

y’s. ever & truly

B

P.S.

You have never answered me about Holmes the Miniature painter – can he come or no? I want him to paint the miniatures of my daughter – and two other persons.

[1:4, inverted over address:] In the 1st. pamphlet it is printed “a M. J.S.” it should be “M’. J.S.” and not “a” which is contemptuous – it is a printer’s error & was not thus written.

Murray to Byron, from 50, Albemarle Street, London, June 22nd, 1821:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43497; LJM 404-5)

Murray has received Sardanapalus, which Byron sent on May 31st.

London June 22.

Dear Lord Byron

Late on Tuesday night I received your Lordships valuable packet containing the Tragedy of Sardanapalus – As it was written not as legibly as formerly I sent it the next morning to the printer with orders to put all hands upon it & the result is that I am enabled to send you a proof of the first Act – M’ Hobhouse called just as it came in & I gave him a Copy of it for himself & Kinnaird & Since I have given another to M’ Gifford – I am amazingly anxious to read it for its Title promises great Originality & entertainment –

By every post you may

1:2

226: Margarita Cogni.
227: Sketches Descriptive of Italy in the Years 1816, 1817, with a brief of Travels in various Parts of France and Switzerland in the same years (pb’d by Mu. 1820), by Miss E. A. Waldie; B. took offence at it in a note to Marino Faliero before he knew the author to be female.
I think calculate upon receiving an Act. Pray be so good as to put all packets under cover to John Barrow Esq Secretary to the Admiralty – as the name will insure security –

I shall give you Giffords opinion in my next.

Most truly
Your Lordships Servant
John Murray

I have sent Plutarch &c.

1:3 blank.

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, June 29th 1821:
(Source: text from B.L.Ashley 2700; LJ V 311-17; BLJ VIII 144-5)
[To / Jno Murray Esqre / 50 Albemarle Street / London / Angleterre / Inghilterra]

Byron has still to receive the previous item.

Ravenna June 29th. 1821.

Dear Murray

From the last parcel of books the two first volumes of “Butler’s Catholics” are missing. – As the book is “from the author” in thanking him for me – mention this circumstance. – Waldegrave and Walpole are not arrived – Scott’s novels all safe. – – By the time you receive this letter the Coronation will be over – & you will be able to think of business. – Long before this you ought to have received the M.S.S. of “Sardanapalus”. – It was sent on the 2nd. Inst. By the way – you must permit me to choose my own seasons of publication. – All that you have a right to on such occasions is the mere matter of barter – – if you think you are likely to lose by such or such a time of printing – you will have [full] allowance made for it – on statement. – It is now two years nearly that M.S.S. of mine have been in your hands in Statu quo. – Whatever I may have thought (& not being on the Spot nor having any [exact] means of ascertaining the thermometer of success or failure I have had no determinate opinion upon the subject) I have allowed you to go on in your own way – & acquiesced in all your arrangements hitherto. I pray you to forward the proofs of “Sardanapalus” as soon as you can – & let me know if it be deemed print=worthy. – – I am quite ignorant how far “the Doge” did or did not succeed – your last say nothing. – My own immediate friends are naturally partial – – one review (Blackwoods’) speaks highly of it – another pamphlet calls it “a failure”. – It is proper that you should apprise me of this – because I am in the third act of a third drama – & if I have nothing to expect but coldness from the public & hesitation from yourself – – it were better to break off in time. – I had proposed to myself to go on – as far as my Mind would carry me – and I have thought of plenty of subjects. – But if I am trying an impracticable experiment – it is better to say so at once. – – – –

So Canning & Burdett have been quarrelling – if I mistake not, the last time of their single combats – each was shot in the thigh by his Antagonist, & Their Correspondence might be headed thus – by any wicked wag. –

Brave Champions! go on with the farce!
Reversing the spot where you bled,
Last time <you> {both} were shot in the a—se –
Now (damn you) get knocked on the head!

I have not heard from you for some weeks – but I can easily excuse the silence from its occasion. – Believe me

yrs. ever & truly
B

P.S. – Do you or do not you mean to print the M.S.S. Cantos – Pulci &c.? –

228: Charles Butler, Historical Memoirs (4 vols., 1819-21); published by Mu.
229: The Two Foscari.
P.S. 2. – To save you the bore of writing yourself – when you are “not i’ the vein”\(^{230}\) make one of your Clerks send a few lines to apprize me of arrivals &c. – of M.S.S. – & matters of business. – I shan’t take it ill. – & I know that a bookseller in large business – must have his time {too} over-occupied to answer every body himself. –

P.S. 3. – I have just read “John Bull’s letter”\(^{231}\) – it is diabolically well written – & full of fun and ferocity. – I must forgive the dog whoever he is. – I suspect three people – one is Hobhouse – the other – <> M’. Peacock (a very clever fellow) and lastly Israeli – there are parts very like Israeli – & he has a present grudge with Bowles & Southey &c. There is something too of the author of the Sketch=book in the Style. Find him out.

[written around address:]

The packet or letter addressed under cover to M¹. H.\(^{232}\) has never arrived & never will. – You should address directly to me here & by the post. –

**Teresa Guiccioli to Byron, and Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, July 4th 1821:**
(Source: Ms. of English not found; Italian text from NLS Ms.43429; English from LJ V 320m; English only at BLJ VIII 145-6)

**Teresa has persuaded Byron to stop writing Don Juan.**

**Teresa Guiccioli writes to Byron:**

Cuor mio / Che fai del tuo dolore? Fammelo sapere per Lega—perché mi dà molta pena.—Papà e Pierino sono partiti che sarà un'ora—e non torneranno che Lunedì. Ricordati mio Byron della promessa che m’hai fatta—non potrei mai dir ti la soddisfazione ch’io ne provo!—Sono tanti i sentimenti di piacere—e di confidenza che il tuo Sacrificio m’inspira! = Perché mai le parole esprimano così poco quello che passa dentro dell’Anima! Se tu potessi vedere piemam:[ente] lo stato della mia da ieri sera in quà—Sono certa che sareste in qualche modo ricompensato del tuo Sacrificio! Ti bacio mio Byron 100 000 La tua amica amante in eterno

Teresa Guiccioli G.G.

D.P. Mi rincresce solo che D: Giovanni non resti all’Inferno.

**Translation:** My heart / How is your illness? Let me know via Lega—for it gives me much unhappiness.— Papa and Pierino have been gone an hour—and will not be back till Monday. / Remember my Byron the promise you made me—I can never describe the satisfaction it gives me! Such are the feelings of pleasure and confidence which your sacrifice inspires in me!—How little can words express what is passing through my Soul! If you could see clearly the state in which my soul has been from last night till now—I am sure you would be rewarded to some extent for your Sacrifice! / I kiss you a hundred thousand times my Byron / Your friend and lover in eternity / Teresa Guiccioli. / P.S: I am only sorry that Don Juan does not remain in Hell.

Byron writes to Murray, enclosing the above:

This is the note of acknowledgement for the promise not to continue D[on]. J[uan].—She says in the P.S. that she is only sorry D. J. does not remain in Hell (or go there).———The “dolore” in the first sentence refers merely to a bilious attack which I had some days ago, and of which I got better.

**Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, July 6th 1821:**
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43492; LJ V 320; BLJ VIII 147)

[To, / John Murray Esqre. / 50. Albemarle Street. / London. / Angleterre. / Inghilterra.]

The strictly linear BLJ version gives no idea of this jig-saw puzzle of a letter.

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231: By John Gibson Lockhart.
232: Hoppner; see Mu.’s of May 29th.
[Above salutation:] Your parcel of extracts never came & never will – you should have sent it by the post – but you are growing a sad fellow and some fine day we shall have to dissolve partnership.

Dear Sir /

In agreement with a wish expressed by Mr. Hobhouse – it is my determination to omit the Stanza upon <Semiramis> the horse of Semiramis – in the fifth Canto of D J.233 – I mention this in case you are or intend to be the publisher of the remaining Cantos. By yesterday’s post I ought in point of [Ms. tear: “time”?] to have had an acknowledgement of the [Ms. tear: “arrival”?] of the M.S.S. of “Sardanapalus” – – If it has arrived & you have delayed the few lines necessary for this – I can only say that you are keeping two people in hot water – the postmaster here – because the packet was insured – & myself because I had but that one copy. – I am in the fifth act of a play on the subject of the Foscari’s father and Son – Foscolo can tell you their story.

I am yrs. [scrawl]

P.S. – At the particular request of the Countess G. I have promised not to continue Don Juan. – You will therefore look upon these 3 cantos as the last of that poem. –

[2, above address:]

She had read the two first in the French translation – & never ceased beseeching me to write no more of it. – The reason of this is not at first obvious to a superficial observer of foreign manners but it arises from the wish of all women to exalt the sentiment of the passions – & to keep up the illusion which is their empire – Now D. J. strips off this illusion – & laughs at that & most other things. – I never knew a woman who did not protect Rousseau – nor one who did not dislike de Grammont – [Gil Blas] & all the comedy of the passions – when brought out naturally. – But “King’s blood must keep word” as Serjeant Bothwell says.234 – Write you Scamp! – –

[2, below address:]

Some more Soda powders. –

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, July 7th 1821:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43492; LJ V 321-2; BLJ VIII 149)
[To, Jno Murray Esq. / 50. Albemarle Street. / London. / Angleterre. / Inghilterra.]

R² July 7th. 1821.

Dear Sir /

Enclosed are two letters from two of y¹. professional brethren. – By one of them you will perceive that if you are disposed to “buy justice” – it is to be sold (no doubt as “Stationary”) at his Shop. – – –

Thank him in my name for his good will – however – and good offices – and say that e. {I} can’t afford to “Purchase justice” – as it is by far the dearest article in these very dear times. – yrs. ever

[scrawl]

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, July 9th 1821:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43492; LJ V 322; BLJ VIII 149-50)

A single sheet with the last three sides blank. No address.

R² July 9th. 1821.

Dear Sir /

233: DJ V st.61 (cut from the first edition).
234: Scott, Old Mortality, Chap XVI: “King’s blood must keep word,” said the dragoon.
The enclosed packet came quite open so I suppose it is no breach of confidence to send it back to you who must have seen it before. – Return it to the Address – explaining in what state I received it. – –

What is all this about Mitylene (where I never was in my life) “Manuscript Criticism on the Manchester business” (which I never wrote) “Day & Martin’s patent blacking,” and a “young lady who offered &c.” – of whom I never heard. – Are the people mad or merely drunken?

I have at length received your packet – & have nearly completed the tragedy on the Foscaris – Believe me yours very truly

[swirl signature]

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, July 14th 1821:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43492; LJ V 322–4; BLJ VIII 151-2)
[To, John Murray Esqre / 50 Albemarle Street / London / Angleterre / Inghilterra]
Byron dispatches the proofs of Sardanapalus, and the manuscript of The Two Foscari.

July 14th. 1821.

Dear Sir/

According to your wish I have expedited by this post two packets addressed to J. Barrow Esqre. Admirlty &c. – –

The one contains the returned proofs with such corrections as time permits of “Sardanapalus”. – The other contains the tragedy of “the two Foscari” in five acts, the argument of which Foscolo or Hobhouse can explain to you – or you will find it at length in P. Daru’s history of Venice, – also more briefly – in Sismondi’s I. R. An outline of it is in the Pleasures of Memory also. – The name is a dactyl “Fōsĉarī”. – – Have the goodness to write by return of post which is essential. – – – –

I trust that “Sardanapalus” will not be mistaken for a political play – which was so far from my intention that I thought of nothing but Asiatic history. – The Venetian play too is rigidly historical. – My object has been to dramatize like the Greeks (a modest phrase!) striking passages of history, as they did of

1:2

history & mythology. – You will find all this very unlike Shakespeare – and so much the better in one sense for I look upon him to be the worst of models – though the most extraordinary of writers. – It has been my object to be as simple and severe as Alfieri – & I have broken down the poetry as nearly as I could to common language. – The hardship is that in these times one can neither speak – of kings or Queens without suspicion of politics or personalities. – –

I intended neither. – –

I am not very well – and I write in the midst of unpleasant scenes here – they have without trial – or process – banished several of the first inhabitants of the cities – here and all around the Roman States – amongst them many of my personal friends – so that every thing is in confusion & grief; – it is a kind of thing which cannot be described without equal pain as in beholding it. – – – –

1:3

You are very niggardly in your letters. – yrs truly [scrawl]

P.S.

In the first soliloquy of Salamenes – read –

“<Which are> at once his Chorus and his Council”

“Chorus” being in the {greek} {higher dramatic} sense – meaning his accompaniment – & not a {mere} musical train. –

235: Contents of packet unidentified.
236: “Italian Republics”.
237: Sardanapalus I 40.
July 16th 1821: Byron starts *Cain*; he finishes it on September 9th.

**Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, July 22nd 1821:**
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43492; LJ V 324-7; BLJ VIII 155-7)

[To, John Murray Esq. / 50. Albemarle Street / London. / Angleterre. / Inghilterra.]

R. July 22d, 1821.

Dear Murray /

By this post is expedited a parcel of notes – addressed to J. Barrow Esq. &c. – Also by ye. former post – the returned proof of S. – and the M.S.S. of the “two Foscaris.” – Acknowledge these.

The printer has done wonders – he has read what I cannot – my own handwriting. – – – – I oppose the “delay till Winter” – I am particularly anxious to print while the Winter theatres are closed – to gain time in case they try their former piece of politeness. – – Any loss – shall be considered in our contract – whether occasioned by the season or other causes – but print away – and publish. – I think they must own that I have more styles

1:2

than one. – “Sardanapalus” is however almost a comic character – but for that matter – so is Richard the third. – Mind the *Unities* – which are my great object of research. I am glad that Gifford likes it – as for “the Million” – you see I have carefully consulted anything but the taste of the day – for extravagant “coups de theatre”. – Any probable loss – as I said before – will be allowed for in our accompts. – –

The reviews (except one or two, Blackwood’s for instance) are cold enough – but never mind those fellows – I shall send them to the right about – if I take it into my head. – Perhaps that in the Monthly is written by Hodgson – as a reward for having paid his debts and travelled all night to beg his mother in law (by his own desire) to let

1:3

him marry her daughter; – though I had never seen her in my life, it succeeded. – But such are mankind – and I have always found the English *baser* (in some things) than any other nation. – You stare – but it’s true – as to *gratitude*; – perhaps – – because they are prouder – & proud people hate obligations. – – – –

The tyranny of the government here is breaking out – they have exiled about a thousand people of the best families all over the Roman States. – As many of my friends are amongst them – I think of moving too – but not till I have had your answers – – continue your address to me here as usual – & quickly. – – What you will *not* be sorry to hear is – that the *poor* of the place – hearing that I mean to go – got together

1:4

a petition to the Cardinal – to request that he would request me to remain. 238 I only heard of it a day or two ago – & it is no dishonour to them nor to me – but it will have displeased the higher powers who look upon me as a Chief of the Coalheavers. 239 They arrested a servant of mine for a Street quarrel with an Officer (they drew upon one another knives & pistols) but as the Officer was out of uniform – – & in the *wrong* besides – on my protesting stoutly – he was released – <As> I was not present at the affray – which happened by night near my stables. – – My man (an Italian) a very stout – & not over patient personage would have taken a fatal revenge {afterwards} if I had not prevented him.

2:1

As it was he drew his stiletto – and – but for passengers – would have <carbonadod> carbonadoed the Captain – who (I understand) made but a poor figure in the quarrel – except by beginning it. – – – –

He applied to me – and I offered him any satisfaction – either by turning away the man or otherwise, because he had drawn a knife. He answered that a reproof would be sufficient. – I reproved him – [Ms. tear: “and”?] yet – after this – the shabby dog complained to the Government – after <objecting> being quite satisfied as he said. – *This* roused me – and I gave them a remonstrance which had some

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238: See Sh.’s statement to M.S. (August 10th 1821), that B. gives a quarter of his income to the poor.

239: The Carbonari.
effect. – If he had not enough – he should have called me out – but that is not the Italian line of 
conduct, – the Captain has been reprimanded – the servant released – & the business at present rests 
there.
Write & let me know of the arrival of [scrawl]

[2:2 above address:] P.S. You will of course publish the two tragedies of Sardanapalus the Foscaris 
together. 240 – You can afterwards collect them with “Manfred”, and “the Doge” – into the works. – 
Inclosd is an additional note. – –

Murray to Byron, from 50, Albemarle Street, London, July 24th 1821:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43497; Smiles I 440; LJM 406-7)

Murray answers Byron’s of June 29th, and July 6th and 7th. London July 24 – 1821

Dear Lord Byron

I have this instant received your Letters of July 6. 7 – & on Saturday I got one of the 29th June – 
You ought not to be angry that I addressed the Newspaper extracts to you addressed to Mr Hoppner – 
for my intention was well designed – & I have no doubt yet of its safe delivery – One parcel wch you 
missed before I applied about & paid said it would be forwarded – Don Juan is now printed and I will 
cancel the leaf containing the Stanza wch your letter desires – & publish immediately – I have sent you 
<a> the first rough Copy in a (wch goes tomorrow) with Soda powders – 

It is a most infamous trick of Valpy to write to get Pamphlets gratis to sell for his own advantage – & Mr Stockdale who wishes to sell you Justice is a compleat a

1:2

S. – I as ever breathed – Shall I now print the Hints & Pulci anonymously 241 – Gifford does not like the 
Hints & so let them take their chance – 

I have just received the inclosed letter from Mr Moore – the Subject of it is every way worthy of 
your Lordships usual liberality 242 – & I had not a moments hesitation in acceding to a proposal which 
enabled me in any way to join in assisting so excellent a fellow – I have told him <> wch I suppose 
your Lordship will think fair that he should give me all additions that you may from time to time make 
– & in case of survivorship he Should edit the whole – & I will leave it as an Heir loom to my Son – 
please to return so curiously a valuable and

1:3

honourable a Letter – 

I wonder that yr Lordship has not received the Proofs of Sardanapaulus Shall we publish the New 
Tragedy & it in one Volume – their Stories will form a fine contrast – 

I have written to accede to Mr Moores proposal – 

I remain

Dear Lord Byron 
Your grateful

& faithful Servant

John Murray

[1:4 contains address.] 

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, July 30th 1821:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43492; LJ V 329-31; QII 660-1; BLJ VIII 161-3)


Dear Sir /

240: In the event, they are published with Cain (which B. hasn’t mentioned yet).
241: Mu. publishes neither H/J nor the Morgante Maggiore.
242: B. has given Mo. his Memoirs, and Mo. has sold them to Mu. for 2,000 gs.
Enclosed is the best account of the Doge Faliero – which was only sent to me from an old M.S.S. the other day. Get it translated and append it as a note to the next edition. – You will perhaps be pleased to see that my conceptions of his character were correct – though I regret not having met with this extract before. – You will perceive that he himself said exactly what He is made to say – about the Bishop of Treviso. – You will see also that “he spoke {very} little and then only words of rage and <fury> {disdain} after his arrest – which is the case in the play – except when he breaks out at the close of Act fifth. – But his speech to the Conspirators – is better in the M.S.S. than in the play – I wish {that} I had met with it in time.

1:2

Do not forget this note, with a translation. – In a former note to the Juans – speaking of Voltaire I have quoted his famous “Zaire – tu pleures” – which is an error – it should be “Zaire vous pleurez” – recollect this – & recollect also that your want of recollection has permitted you to publish the note on the Kelso traveller – which I had positively desired you not – for proof of which I refer you to my letters. – I presume that you are able to lay your hand upon these letters – as you are accused publicly in a pamphlet of showing them about. I wait your acknowledgment of the packets containing “[the] Foscaris” – notes – & &. – now your Coronation is over – perhaps you will find time. I have also written to M’. Kinnaird

1:3
to say that I expect the two tragedies to be published speedily – and to inform him – that I am willing to make any abatement on your statement of loss liable to be incurred by publishing at an improper season. – – –

I am so busy here about these poor proscribed exiles – who are scattered about – and {with} trying to get some of them recalled – that I have hardly time or patience to write a short preface – which will be proper for the two plays. – –
However I will make it out – on receiving the next proofs. –

yrs. ever [scrawl]

P.S. – Please to append the letter about the Hellespont as a note to your next opportunity of the verses on Leander &c. &c. &c. in Childe Harold. – Don’t forget it amidst your multitudinous avocations – which I think of celebrating in a dithyrambic ode to Albemarle Street.

1:4

Are you aware that Shelley has written an elegy on Keats – and accuses the Quarterly of killing him?

Who killed John Keats?
I, says the Quarterly
So savage & &Martyrly> {Tartarly}
’Twas one of my feats –
Who <drew the> <pen> {shot the arrow?}
The poet=priest Milman
(So ready to kill man –)
Or Southey or Barrow. – –

You know very well that I did not approve of Keats’s poetry – or principles of poetry – <& abuse of Pope> – or {of} his abuse of Pope – but as he is dead – omit all that is said about him in any M.S.S. of mine – or publication. – His Hyperion is a fine monument & will keep his name. – I do not envy the man – who wrote the article245 – your review people have no more right to kill than any other footpads.

243: This appears as Appendix I to Marino Faliero. It is a passage from Muratori’s 1748 Rerum Italicarum Scriptores, which is itself an Italian translation of the fifteenth- or sixteenth-century chronicle Vite dei Doge, by Marin Sanudo, or Sanuto.

244: For the context of the line, see Voltaire, Zaïre, ed. Eva Jacobs, (Hodder and Stoughton 1975), p.129 (line 1154).

245: The article which “killed Keats” was by Croker.
However – he who would die of an article in a review – would probably have died of something else equally trivial – he same thing nearly happened to Kirke White – who afterwards died of [text curls up right-hand side:] a consumption.

Murray to Byron, from 50, Albe marle Street, London, July 31st, 1821:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43497; LJM 409-10)
[Milord / Milord Byron / poste restante / Ravenna / Italie // arrived: Forli 16 August]
Murray answers Byron’s of July 14th.

London July 31 – 1821

Dear Lord Byron

I have great satisfaction in announcing the safe arrival of the Proof Sheets of Sardanapalus and the MSS of the new Tragedy – I have now sent the latter – within an hour of its arrival to day, to the printer and I hope to send a portion of it by fridays Post – & I will give another copy of it to our old friend Mr. Gifford who is now at Ramsgate –

I hope you will not be angry at a liberty which I have ventured to take in retaining until I can be favoured with your Lordships reiterated commands – the Letter – however trifling its Contents may be wch may connect your name with that of J.J.Stockdale – who is a very wretch and not by the possibility of any accident – do you otherwise than discredit – I entreat you let me put it into the fire – or into my collections –

I sent you the first Sheets of Don Juan which is now ready to be published on Wednesday – the Stanza is cancelled – in all the other Copies – I am sorry that your ardour for the Compleation of this poem has been so frequently damped –

Holmes is so great a man with the King & has so much occupation here that he can not venture to travel –

I inclose a letter which I have just received from James Smith
I remain Dearest Sir
your Lordships
faithful Servant
John Murray

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, August 4th 1821:
(Source: text from B.L.Ashley 4748; LJ V 337; BLJ VIII 166-7)

For Byron, the idea that Murray’s gang “killed Keats” is now scripture (this letter was sold to T.J.Wise by John Murray in January 1932).

Ra August 4th, 1821.

Dear Sir /

I return the proofs of the 2d. pamphlet. I leave it to your choice and Mr. Gifford’s to publish it or not with such omission as he likes. – You must however omit the whole of the observations against the Suburban School – they are meant against Keats and I cannot war with the dead – particularly those already killed by Criticism. Recollect to omit all that portion in any case –

Lately I have sent you several packets which require answer = you take a gentlemanly interval to answer them. –

yrs &c.,
Byron

P.S. – They write from Paris that Schlegel is making a {fierce} book against me – what can I have done to the literary Col=captain of late Madame? – I who am neither of his country nor his horde? – Does this Hundsfot’s intention appal you? if it does – say so. – – It don’t me – for if he is insolent – I will go to Paris and thank him; – there is a distinction between native Criticism – because it belongs to the Nation to judge and pronounce {on natives,} – but what have I to do with Germany or Germans neither my subjects nor my language having anything in common with that Country? – He took a dislike to me – because I refused to flatter him in Switzerland – though Madame de Broglio begged me to do so – “because he is so fond of it. – – “Voila les hommes!” –
Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, August 7th 1821:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43492; LJ V 338; BLJ VIII 172)

One sheet. No address. Byron sends The Blues, which Murray does not publish.

Ravenna, August 7th. 1821

Dear Sir /

I send you a thing – which I scratched off lately – a mere buffoonery – to quiz “the Blues” in two literary eclogues. – If published it must be anonymously – but it is too short for a separate publication – and you have [no] miscellany that I know of – for the reception of such things. – You may send me a proof if you think it worth the trouble – but don’t let my name out – for the present – or I shall have all the old women in London about my ears – since it sneers at the solace of their antient Spinsterstry. –

Acknowledge this – & the various packets lately sent –

[side 2 blank.]

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, August 7th 1821:
(Source: text from B.L.Ashley 4749; LJ V 338-42; BLJ VIII 172-3)

[To, / John Murray Esqre / 50 Albemarle Street / London / Angleterre / Inghilterra]

Byron cannot let alone the idea that Murray’s gang “killed Keats” (this letter was sold to T.J.Wise by John Murray in January 1932).

Ravenna, August 7th. 1821.

Dear Sir /

By last post I forwarded a packet of [sic: for “to”?] you […] as usual you are avised by this post. – I should be loth to hurt M’. Bowles’s feelings by publishing the second pamphlet – and as he has shown considerable regard for mine – we had better suppress it altogether – at any rate I would not publish it without letting him see it first – and omitting all such matter as might be personally offensive to him: – Also all the part about the Suburb School must be omitted – as it referred to poor Keats now slain by the Quarterly Review – –

If I do not err – I mentioned to you that I had heard from Paris – that Schlegel announces a meditated abuse of me in a criticism. – The disloyalty of such a proceeding towards a foreigner who has uniformly spoken so well of M’. de Stael in his writings – and who moreover has nothing to {do} with continental literature or Schlegel’s country and countrymen – is such – that I feel a strong inclination to bring the matter to a personal arbitrement – provided it can be done – without being ridiculous or unfair – – His intention however must be first fully ascertained before I can proceed – and I have written for some information on the subject to M’. Moore. – The Man was also my personal acquaintance – and though I refused to flatter him grossly (as M’. de B.248 requested me to do) yet I uniformly treated him with respect – with much more indeed than any one else – for his peculiarities are such that they [one and] all laughed at him – and especially the Abbe Chevalier di Breme – who did nothing but make me laugh at him so much behind his back – that nothing but the politeness on which I pride myself in society – could have prevented me from doing so to his face. – –

1:2

He is just such a character as William the testy in Irving’s New York.249 – –

But I must have him out for all that – since his proceeding (supposing it to be true) is ungentlemanly in all it’s bearings – at least in my opinion – but perhaps my partiality misleads me. –

It appears to me that there is a distinction between native and foreign criticism in the case of living writers – or at least should be, – I don’t speak of Journalists (who are the same all over the world) but

246: The Blues was first printed not by Mu. but in The Liberal’s third number (April 26th 1823).
247: The opening sentence actually reads, “By last post I forwarded a packet of you as usual you are avised by this post.”
248: Albertine, duchesse de Broglie, Madame de Staël’s daughter.
where a man [with his name at length] sits down to an elaborate attempt to defame a foreigner of his acquaintance – without provocation – & without legitimate object – for what can I import to the Germans? – What effect can I have upon their literature? – Do you think me in the wrong? – if so – say so.

Yours [scrawl]

3:4

P.S. I mentioned in my former letters – that it was my intention to have the two plays published immediately. – –

Acknowledge the various packets. –
I am extremely angry with you – I beg leave to add for several reasons too long for present explanation.

[inverted, on other side of address:

I have just been turning over the homicide review of J. Keats. – It is harsh certainly and contemptuous but not more so than what I recollect of the Edinburgh R. of “the Hours of Idleness” in 1808. The Reviewer allows him “a degree of talent which deserves to be put in the right way” “rays of fancy” “gleams of Genius” and “powers of language”. – It is harder on L. Hunt than upon Keats & professes [fairly] to review only one book of his poem. – Altogether – though very provoking it was hardly so bitter as to kill unless there was a morbid feeling previously in his system. –

August 8th 1821: Don Juan III, IV and V published.

Gifford to Murray, August 1821:
(Source: text from John Murray Archive, 50 Albemarle Street)

Lord Byron will have a pretty collection of dramas, by the by – let him proceed, he will do something at last. Never mind his plays as being stageworthy: in these times, it signifies not much – but he has the true dramatic turn, & fails only in his plots. If he could but get a little into the bustle of our old dramatists, absurd as it sometimes was, it would do: otherwise he must die a martyr to his simplicity or singleness. I profess myself much taken with the gay & sprightly dialogue of the last – we have had very little like it since Fletcher & Shirley. They would, however, have crowded the canvas more. After all he is a wonderful creature – if I had him, I would keep him carefully, & shew him only on high days and holydays.

Gifford to Murray, August 7th 1821:
(Source: text from John Murray Archive, 50 Albemarle Street)

Aug 7th 1821

... Don Juan, I really regret to see. What can Lord Byron propose to himself by forcing the publication of these cantos! They will not add to his fame; and this is what he should now take care of. Our friend, Sir Walter, makes an occasional sacrifice – but then he has a powerful motive: and besides, though he may play with his talents, he never trifles with his character. I could say more, but alas, cui bono! You forgot to post up the revise of the Assyrian monarch. The two acts of Foscari have more life than the other Doge; but there are tame & stiffly measured lines, which might be wished away. Our old poets, not even Massinger, [do] not always make the end of one speech [and] the beginning of another a metrical line, as Lord Byron does – sometimes very feebly. I have said something of this in the second edition of Massinger.

Murray to Byron, from London, August 8th, 1821:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43497; LJM 411-12)

Dearest Sir

I now send your Lordships two Acts of “the Foscari” & I have inclosed a duplicate to M’ Gifford at Ramsgate – hear what a critical friend says

“Never mind his plays not being Stage-worthy: in these times, it signifies not much – but he has the true dramatic turn, & fails only in his plots. If he could but get a little of the bustle of our old dramatists, absurd as it sometimes was, it would do: – otherwise he must die a martyr to his simplicity
or singleness. I profess myself much taken with the gay & sprightly dialogue of Sardanapalus – we have had very little like it since Fletcher & Shirley. They would however have crowded the canvas more – After al he is a wonderful creature – if I had him, I would keep him up carefully, & shew him only on high days and holydays.”

Don Juan was published yesterday – and as far as I have yet heard – it is said to contain most splendid passages –

The Two Tragedies will make a handsome & interest

Don Juan was published yesterday – and as far as I have yet heard – it is said to contain most splendid passages –

The Queen died last night – <G> The Lord have mercy on her Soul –

God Bless your Lordship prayeth thy dutiful Servant

John Murray

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, August 10th 1821:

Your conduct to Mr. Moore is certainly very handsome; and I would not say so if I could help it, for you are not at present by any means in my good graces.

With regard to additions, &c. there is a Journal which I kept in 1814 which you may ask him for; also a Journal which you must get from Mrs. Leigh, of my journey in the Alps, which contains all the germs of Manfred. I have also kept a small Diary here for a few months last winter, which I would send you, and any continuation. You would find easy access to all my papers and letters, and do not neglect this (in case of accidents) on account of the mass of confusion in which they are; for out of that chaos of papers you will find some curious ones of mine and others, if not lost or destroyed. If circumstances, however (which is almost impossible), made me ever consent to a publication in my lifetime, you would in that case, I suppose, make Moore some advance, in proportion to the likelihood or non-likelihood of success. You are both sure to survive me, however.

You must also have from Mr. Moore the correspondence between me and Lady B. to whom I offered the sight of all which regards herself in these papers. This is important. He has her letter, and a copy of my answer. I would rather Moore edited me than another.

I sent you Valpy’s letter to decide for yourself, and Stockdale’s to amuse you. I am always loyal with you, as I was in Galignani’s affair, and you with me—now and then.

I return you Moore’s letter, which is very creditable to him, and you, and me.

Yours ever.

Murray to Byron, from Cheltenham, August 12th, 1821:

I have this day received your Lordships most obliging Letter with a packet inclosing notes for Sardanapalus & the Foscari, which go immediately to the printer. As your Lordship so particularly desires the immediate publication of these two tragedies it shall be done – at present Drury Lane Theatre – the most ravenous – is opened – for the summer Season – & therefore I presume that I am acting according to the spirit of your Lordships wishes, in having the plays ready to put forth as soon as both Theatres are closed – I told your Lordship in my last what Mr. G had said privately to me about Sardanapalus – <O> The two first Acts of the Foscari – he thinks have more life than the first Doge – Mr. Gifford is at Ramsgate – but it is doing him no good, and I begin to entertain serious apprehensions
about him – and how I am to supply his place I know not in all my range of Literary acquaintances. There is not

1:2

one that is the least like him in the union of so many & such variety of qualifications –

You think of leaving Ravenna & perhaps of quitting Italy; and, indeed, after the state in which it is placed it has become almost necessary – but where does your Lordship think of taking up your abode? is there any hope of your returning to England?

Hobhouse is revising his translation of Francis ca di Rimini and I shall publish it with the original in the winter – did you read a paper in the Quarterly two or three Numbers back on Petrarch & how did you like it & the translations – the article was by Foscolo & the versions by Lady Dacre – the latter are thought to be particularly happy –

Then I am to understand that your Lordship has at length received my parcel of cuttings from the various newspapers &c? – I have sent you some copies of Juan &c since. – Our friend Henry Matthews is just married & going out to Ceylon as a kind of a Judge with an appointment of £2000 certain & whatever he may make by practice – you have charmed one or two Americans whom you have admitted to

1:3

your acquaintance & attentions – Irving who has lately returned from france, read me a letter from one – they are improving in Education & its consequent Manners – with great strides – & the urbanity of Irving’s friend is delightful – He is preparing two new Volumes – Milman has also another Drama, which I expect to receive from him in a week.

I expect every day to receive your Lordships busts which are now in the River – Chantry has made a most exquisite one of Scott – I had the good fortune to sit by Sir W Scott in the Hall during the Coronation – a Sight wch I would not have Missed for anything – & he declared it had infinitely surpassed all that he could have conceived possible – Scott never ceases to talk of you with the most firm regard –

I am here – for a month – on account of my wife’s health which has been precarious since her last severely and dangerous illness -- I suspect that Drury Lane will not close as it has within these ten days only – presented

1:4 [above address:] a most superb imitation of the Coronation – at a most enormous expense & it will require a Month to repay them – & Queen’s death too interfered & every body has escaped from town – Coplestone is here & Professor Monk

[below address:] I have great doubts if Heber will succeed in his election for Oxford – Sir Jno Nichol his opponent is a violent Anti-Catholic – & vigorously supported by the bigoted in this way & by the Ld Chancellor & his brother. I remain Dear Lord Byron

your grateful & faithful Serv

Jno Murray

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, August 13th 1821:

Dear Sir /

I think it as well to remind you that in “the Hints” – all the part which regards Jeffrey & the E. R. must be omitted. – Your late mistake about the Kelso=woman induces me to remind you of this – which I appended to your power of Attorney six years ago – viz. – to omit all that could touch upon Jeffrey in that publication – which was written a year before our reconciliation in 1812. -- -- -- -- -- Have you got the Bust? – I expect with anxiety the proofs of the two Foscaris

yours. [scrawl]

P.S.

Acknowledge the various packets.

[sides 2 and 3 blank.]
Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, August 16th 1821:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43492; LJ V 344-5; BLJ VIII 181-2)
[To – Jno. Murray Esq. / 50: Albemarle Street. / London. / Angleterre. / Inghilterra.]

Dear Sir /

I regret that Holmes can’t or won’t come – it is rather shabby – as I was always very civil & punctual with him – but he is but one rascal more – – one meets with none else, amongst the English. – You may do what you will with my answer to Stockdale – of whom I know nothing – but answered his letter civilly – you may open it – & burn it or not – as you please. – It contains nothing of consequence to anybody. – How should I – or at least was I [then] to know that he was a rogue? – I am not aware of the histories of London and it’s inhabitants. – Your more recent parcels are not yet arrived – but are probably on their way – I sprained my knee the other day in swimming – and it hurts me still considerably. – – – – – – – – – – – –

I wait the proofs of the M.S.S. with proper impatience – – – – – –

So you have published – or mean to publish the new Juans? an’t you afraid of the Constitutional Association of Bridge street? – when first I saw the name of Murray, – I thought it had been yours – but was solaced by seeing that Synonime is an Attorneo – and that you are not one of that atrocious crew. – – – – –

I am in great discomfort about the probable war – and [with] my damned trustees not getting me out of the funds. – If the funds break – it is my intention to go upon the highway – all the other English professions are at present so ungentlemanly

by the conduct of those who follow them – that open robbery is the only fair resource left to a man of <honour> {any} principles; – it is even honest in comparison – by being undisguised. – – – –

I wrote to you by last post to say that you had done the handsome thing by Moore and the Memoranda. You are very good as times go – and would probably be still better but for “the March of events” (as Napoleon called it) which won’t permit anybody to be better than they should be. –

Love to Gifford – Believe me y° ever &

[scrawl]

P.S. – I restore Smith’s letter – whom thank for his good opinion.

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, August 23rd 1821:
(Source: not yet found at NLS Ms.43492; LJ V 346-9; QII 661-3; BLJ VIII 186-7)
Caught using prose sources for Don Juan II, Byron confesses to their use in Don Juan III as well. His last paragraph shows what he really thinks of Murray.

Dear Sir, – Enclosed are the two acts corrected. With regard to the charges about the Shipwreck, – I think that I told both you and Mr Hobhouse, years ago, that [there] was not a single circumstance of it not taken from fact: not, indeed, from any single shipwreck, but all from actual facts of different wrecks. Almost all Don Juan is real life, either my own, or from people I knew. By the way, much of the description of the furniture, in Canto 3°, is taken from Tully’s Tripoli (pray note this), and the rest from my own observation. Remember, I never meant to conceal this at all, and have only not stated it, because Don Juan had no preface nor name to it. If you think it worth while to make this statement, do so, in your own way. I laugh at such charges, convinced that no writer ever borrowed less, or made his materials more his own. Such is coincidence: for instance, Lady Morgan (in a really excellent book,

250: Valpy and Stockdale were publishers. B.’s correspondence with them is lost.
251: And yet see B. to Mu., from Genoa, December 25th 1822: “Arcades Ambo” (“Murrays both”).
252: B. anticipates an English civil war.
253: B. has read Plagiarisms of Lord Byron detected in The Monthly Magazine for August 1st 1821 (pp.19-21), which points to his numerous borrowings in DJ II from Dalyell’s Shipwrecks and Disasters at Sea.
254: H. reports reading “Tully’s Tripoli” as early as September 13th 1816, at Diodati.
I assure you, on Italy) calls Venice an Ocean Rome;\textsuperscript{255} I have the very same expression in Foscari, and yet you know that the play was written months ago, and sent to England. The Italy I received only on the 16\textsuperscript{th}. inst. -- Your friend, like the public, is not aware, that my dramatic simplicity is studiously Greek, and must continue so: no reform ever succeeded at first. I admire the old English dramatists; but this is quite another field, and has nothing to do with theirs. I want to make a regular English drama, no matter whether for the Stage or not, which is not my object, -- but a mental theatre. \textsuperscript{y²}.

P.S. -- Can't accept your courteous offer. --

For Orford and for Waldegrave\textsuperscript{256}
You give much more than me you gave
Which is not fairly to behave
My Murray!
Because if a live dog, 'tis said,
Be worth a lion fairly sped,
A live lord must be worth two dead,
My Murray!
And if, as the opinion goes,
Verse hath a better sale than prose --
Certes, I should have more than those
My Murray!
But now -- this sheet is nearly crammed,
So -- if you will -- I shan't be shammed,
And if you won't -- you may be damned,
My Murray!\textsuperscript{257}

These matters must be arranged with M'. Douglas K. -- He is my trustee -- and a man of honour. -- To him you can state all your mercantile reasons, which you might not like to state to me personally -- such as "heavy season" -- "flat public" -- "don't go off" -- Lordship writes too much -- Won't take advice -- declining popularity -- deductions for the trade -- generally lose by him -- pirated edition -- foreign edition -- severe criticisms, &c., with other hints and howls for an oration -- which I leave Douglas who is an orator to answer. -- You can also state them more freely -- to a third person -- as between you and me they could only produce some smart postscripts, which would not adorn our mutual archives. -- I am sorry for the Queen -- and that's more than you are. -- Is the bust arrived?

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, August 31st 1821 (a):
(\textit{Source: text from NLS Ms.43492; BLJ VIII 192-4})
[To, / J. Murray Esq\textsuperscript{r}. / 50. Albemarle Street / London. / Angleterre, / Inghilterra.]
R\textsuperscript{w} August 31\textsuperscript{w}, 1821.

Byron is furious about the misprints in \textit{Don Juan} V. His conclusion is again damagingly frank.

Dear Sir /

I have received the Juans -- which are printed so carelessly especially the 5\textsuperscript{th}. Canto -- as to be disgraceful to me -- & not creditable to you. --
It really must be gone over again with the Manuscript -- the errors are so gross -- words added -- changed -- so as to make cacophony & nonsense. -- You have been careless of this poem because some of your Synod don't approve of it -- but I tell you -- it will be long before you see anything half so good as poetry or writing. -- Upon what principle have you omitted the note on Bacon & Voltaire? and one of the concluding stanzas sent as an addition? because it ended I suppose -- with --

"And do not link two virtuous souls for life
Into that moral Centaur man & wife\textsuperscript{258}

\textsuperscript{255}: "... the city of the waves, the Rome of the ocean" -- Lady Morgan, \textit{Italy} (1821), p.362.
\textsuperscript{256}: Mu. published Horace Walpole (\textit{Memoires of the last ten years of the reign of George the Second}, 1822), and the Earl of Waldegrave (\textit{Memoirs, from 1754 to 1758}, 1821), and paid more for them than the 2,000 gs he was offering B. for \textit{Sardanapalus, Cain, and The Two Foscari}.\textsuperscript{257}
\textsuperscript{257}: B. parodies Cowper's \textit{My Mary}.\textsuperscript{258}
\textsuperscript{258}: DJ V 158, 7-8.
Now I must say once for all – that I will not permit any human being to take such liberties with my writings – because I am absent. –

I desire the omissions to be replaced (except the stanza on Semiramis) particularly the stanza upon the Turkish marriages – and I request that the whole be carefully gone over with the M.S.S. –

I never saw such stuff as is printed – Gulleyaz – instead of <Gulbeyaz> Gulbeyaz. Are you aware that Gulbeyaz is a real name – and the other nonsense? – I copied the Cantos out carefully – so that there is no excuse – as the Printer reads or at least prints the M.S.S. of the plays without error. –

If you have no feeling for your own reputation pray have some little for mine. –

I have read over the poem carefully – and I tell you it is poetry – Your little envious knot of parson=poets may say what they please – time will show that I am not in this instance mistaken. –

Desire my friend Hobhouse to correct the press especially of the last Canto from the Manuscript – as it is – it is enough to drive one out of one’s senses – to see the infernal torture of words from the original. –

For instance the line

"And pair their rhymes as Venus yokes her doves"

"and praise their rhymes &c. –

also "precarious" for "precocious" – and this line. stanza 133.

"And this strong extreme effect – to tire no longer"

Now do turn to the Manuscript – & see – if I ever made such a line – it is not verse. –

No wonder the poem should fail – (which however it wont you will see) with such things allowed to creep about it. –

Replace what is omitted – & correct what is so shamefully misprinted, – and let the poem have fair play – and I fear nothing. –

I don’t allude to Gifford – who has always been my friend – & whom I do not consider as responsible for the articles written by others. – But if I do not give Mr. Milman – <Mr. Southey> – & others of the crew something that shall occupy their dream! <I am not what I was – that is all>

2:1

I have not begun with the {Quarterers} – but let them look to it. – As for Milman (you well know I have not been unfair to his poetry ever) but I have lately had some information of his critical proceedings {in the Quarterly} which may bring that on him {which} he will be sorry for. – I happen to know that of him – Which would annihilate him – when he pretends to preach morality – not that he is immoral – because he isn’t – having in early life been once too much so. – And dares he set up for a preacher? let him go and be priest to Cybele.

You will publish the plays – when ready – – I am in such a humour about this printing of D.J. so inaccurately – that I must close this.

yours [scrawl]

259: DJ V st.61.
260: In the letter, B. has difficulty himself with the orthographical distinction between “Gulleyaz” and “Gulbeyaz”. The problem arises in part because of his uncertainty over whether the name was Gulbeyaz or Gulbezaz and in part because of his failure, in the fair copy, to distinguish his “i”s from his “b”s. The name is from Castellan’s Mœurs, Usages, Costumes des Othmans, et abrégé de leur histoire (Paris, 1812).
261: DJ V, 1, 3.
262: DJ V 157, 5; the fair copy has clearly “precocious”.
263: The fair copy offers a dizzy number of variants to chose from in received stanza 133.
264: B. puts this idea into DJ at XI, 58, 8 (written October 1822, over a year after this letter).
[2:2 above address:] P.S. I presume that you have not lost the stanza to which I allude? it was sent afterwards look over my letters & find it. The Notes you can’t have lost – you acknowledged them – they included eight or little corrections of Bacon’s mistakes in the apothegms. – [below address:] And now I ask once more if such liberties taken in a man’s absence – are fair or praise=worthy? – As for you you have no opinions of your own – & never had – but are blown about by the last thing said to you no matter [up right-hand side:] by whom.

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, August 31st 1821 (b):
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43492; LJ V 354; BLJ VIII 194)
[To, John Murray Esq: / 50. Albemarle Street. / London. / Angleterre. / Inghilterra.]
Byron apologises for the previous item, but sends it anyway.

Dear Sir /
The enclosed letter is written in bad humour – but not without provocation. – However – let it (that is the bad humour) go for little – but I must request your serious attention to the abuses of the printer which ought never to have been permitted. – You forget that all the fools in London (the chief purchasers of your publications) will condemn all the the stupidity of your printer. – For instance in the Notes to Canto fifth – “the Adriatic shore of the Bosphorus – instead of the Asiatic!!” – All this may seem little to you – so fine a gentleman with your ministerial connections – but it is serious to me – who am thousands of miles off & have no opportunity of not proving myself the fool y. printer makes me – except your pleasure & leisure forsooth. The Gods prosper you – – & forgive you for I wont. [scrawl]

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, September 4th 1821 (a):
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43492; LJ V 357; BLJ VIII 197)
A very small single sheet.

Dear Sir /
Enclosed are some notes &c. – you will also have the goodness to hold yourself in readiness to publish the long delayed <no> [letter] <the> to Blackwood’s &c. but previously let me have a proof of it – as I want it for a separate publication. –
The enclosed note you will annex to the Foscaris. – also the dedications y&.

[Side 2 blank.]

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, September 4th 1821 (b):
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43492; LJ V 357-9; BLJ VIII 197-8)
[To, John Murray Esq:. / 50. Albemarle Street. / London. / Angleterre. / Inghilterra.]
R®. Sept®. 4th. 1821.

Dear Sir /
By Saturday’s post I sent you a fierce and furibund letter upon the subject of the printer’s blunders in Don Juan. – I must solicit your attention to the topic – though my wrath hath subsided into sullenness. – – –
Yesterday I received M®. Mawman – a friend of yours – & because he is a friend of yours – and that’s more than I would do in an English case – except for – those whom I honour. – I was as civil as I could be among packages – even to the very chairs & tables – – for I am going to Pisa in a few weeks – & have sent & am sending off my chattels. – – It regretted me – that my books & every thing being packed – I could not send you a few things I meant for you

1:2

but they were all sealed & baggaged – so as to have made it a Month’s work to get at them again. – I gave him an envelope with the Italian scrap in it alluded to in my Gilchrist defence – Hobhouse will make it out for you – & it will make you laugh – & him too – the spelling particularly. – The “Mericani” of whom they call me – the “Capo” (or Chief) mean “Americans” – which is the name <of> given in Romagna to [a part of] the Carbonari – that is to say of the popular part, the troops of the Carbonari. – –

265: In B.’s own fair copy, (DJ V 3, B.’s note), the word “Asiatic” is written and then deleted.
They are originally a society of hunters in the forest – {who took that name of Americans –} but at present comprize some thousands &c, but I shan’t let you further into the secret, which may be participated with the postmasters. Why they thought me their Chief – I know not – their Chiefs are like “Legion<“> being

1:3

Many.” – – However it is a post of more honour than profit – – for now that they are persecuted – it is fit that I should aid them – and so I have done as far as my means will permit. – – They will rise again some day – for the fools of the Government are blundering – they actually seem to know nothing for they have arrested & banished many of their own party – & let others escape – who are not their friends.266

What thinkst thou of Greece?267 – –
Address to me here as usual – till you hear further from me. – – – – –
By Mawman I have, sent a journal268 to Moore – but it won’t do for the public – – at least a great deal of it won’t – parts may.269 – – – I read over the Juans – which are excellent. – Your Synod was quite wrong – & so you will find by and bye. – – –

1:4 [above address:] I regret that I do not go on with it – for I had all the plan for several cantos – and different countries & climes. You say nothing of the note I enclosed to you – Which will explain why I [below address:] agreed to discontinue it – (at Madame G.’s request) but you are so grand and sublime <and> & <hurried> {occupied} that one would think instead of publishing for “the Board of Longitude” – that you were trying to discover it. – – –
Let me hear that Gifford is better – he can’t be spared either by you or me. –
yr[scrawl]

Enclosed is a note which I will thank you not to forget to acknowledge and to publish.

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, September 5th 1821:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43492; LJ V 359; BLJ VIII 201)
[To, Jno. Murray Esq. / 50. Albemarle Street / London. / Angleterre. / Inghilterra.]

Dear Sir /
Will you have the goodness to forward the enclosed to Mr. Gilchrist whose address I do not exactly know – – If that Gentleman would like to see my second letter to you – on the attack upon himself – you can forward him a copy of the proof. –

[side 2 blank.]

Murray to Byron, from Cheltenham, September 6th 1821:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43497; Smiles I 424-5; LJM 418-20)
[Toil / Milord Byron / poste restante / Ravenna / Italie]
Murray answers Byron’s of August 16th. The Thorwaldsen bust has arrived. Murray is still intending to publish Hints from Horace.

Cheltenham
Sept’ 6 – 1821

Most dear Sir

I am much delighted by your Lordships kind letter of the 16th of Aug. which allows me to hope that your rage against me has abated – the same post brings me a letter from town in answer to my constant enquiries after the Bust “The Busts of Lord B are arrived – the Ship is now under quarantine – I inclose an order for their delivery for you to sign” – so after waiting for this bust for years it should at length arrive in the same week with one of Sir Walter Scott (a <bus/>very fine bust), which Chantry (whom Moore can tell you, your Lordship would be Delighted to now) has obligingly presented to me – Stockdale shall not have the honour of your correspondence whilst it is in my power to prevent it.

266: Knowing the Austrians read his mail, B. writes to confuse them.
267: The “Greek War of Independence” has broken out, and the entire Turkish population of Greece has been massacred in one month. B.’s cryptic question shows that he doesn’t know how to react to this himself.
268: The Ravenna Journal.
269: B. leaves all three possibilities open: publication, non-publication, and part-publication.
Proofs of the whole of the Foscari have been forwarded to your Lordship during my absence – Copies have also been sent to Mr Gifford – who will tell me on Monday when I shall be in town, what he thinks of it – Sardanapalus is already half set up in the regular 8vo form – I will send you revises of the Hints &c for fear of error –

Dont be offended with Holmes, you were of great essential

1:2

service in putting him the way to make a livelihood, but it is very long before in his profession, he can gain one – if you wanted me to come out to you it would be very different – Neither be afraid of our funds breaking – when they go – there will be so many on the highway that a Noble free booter will have a bad chance – I bet Sixpence they last our time – I will send your thanks to James Smith – who will be much pleased.

Many persons besides your Lordship have at first supposed that I was the person of the same name connected with the Constitutional Association – but without consideration for on what occasion have I identified myself with a party – I have studiously avoided every party publication & this more strenuously every year and my connexions are I believe even more numerous among the Whigs than the Tories – indeed the Whigs have nearly driven away the Tories from my room – and Jeffray said “if you wish to meet the most respectable of Whe Whigs you must be introduced to Mr Murrays room

You hint that I am a little ungrateful to you, I think – but, upon my soule you will find my occasional apparent inattention arises from no

1:3

causes but constitutional indolence – & now distraction from having so many correspondents – & such incessant interruption to my writing to them – but in essentials I trust you can never find me wanting.

I forgot in my former letter to notice a hint in yours respecting an additional sum to Mr Moore – the purchase wch I have made of the Memoirs is perfectly con amore – as a matter of mere business if I placed the £2000 in the funds (supposing they did not break), in 14 years (the least annuity value of the Autor’s life) it would become 4000£ & so on – Moore should not shew the Memoirs to any one – now, I think –

Gifford always mentions you with unabated regard, as do Scott – Rose – &c &c

Heber (Rich’d) has succeeded in his long desired election for Oxford –

The Jerseys have gone abroad – to resuscitate

Did you receive a Copy of Richardetto Canto I – translated – & presented to your Lordship by Lord Glenbervie?²⁷₀

I have sent the Blue Stockings to amuse Mr G – and it shall be forwarded in proof on my return – –

If you had the local knowledge – it would become an excellent moreceau

1:4, inverted] Accept my very kindest compliments and be assured that I always am Dearest Lord Byron

Your Lordships

faithful servant

John Murray

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, September 12th 1821:

(Source: text from NLS Ms.43492; LJ V 361-3; QII 667-8; BLJ VIII 206-7)

[To, Jµ. Murray Esq / 50. Albermale Street / London / Angleterre / Inghilterra.]

Byron sends Cain, which he has never mentioned to Murray.

Sept. 12th, 1821.

Dear Sir /

By Tuesday’s post – I forwarded in three packets – the drama of “Cain”, in three acts – of which I request the acknowledgement when arrived. – To the last speech of Eve in the last act (i.e. where she curses Cain) add these three lines to the concluding ones. –

“May the Grass wither from thy foot! the Woods

“Deny the<sh>shelter! Earth a home! the Dust

“A Grave! the Sun his <warmth> [light]! and Heaven her God!”²⁷₁

²⁷₀: Lord Glenbervie’s translation of the Ricciardetto of Forteguerri, just published by Mu. It praises TPoD.
There’s as pretty a piece of Imprecation for you, when joined to the lines already sent – as you may wish to meet with in the course of your business. – But don’t forget the addition of the above three lines, which are clinchers to Eve’s speech.

Let me know what Gifford thinks (if the play arrives in safety) for I have a good opinion of the piece as poetry – it is in my gay metaphysical style & in the Manfred line.

1:2

You must at least commend my facility & variety – when you consider what I have done within the last fifteen months – with my head too full of other and of mundane matters. – – But no doubt you will avoid saying any good of it – for fear I should raise the price upon you – that’s right – stick to business! Let me know what your other ragamuffins are writing – for I suppose you don’t like starting too many of your <scarecrows> {Vagabonds} at once. – You may give them the start, for any thing I care. – – If this arrives in time to be added to the other two dramas publish them together – if not – publish it separately – in the same form – to tally for the purchasers – – Let me have [a] proof of the whole <quickly> speedily. – It is longer than “Manfred” – – Why don’t you publish my Pulci? – the best

1:3
	hing I ever wrote – with the Italian to it. – – I wish I was alongside of you – nothing – is ever done in a man’s absence – every body runs counter – because they can. – – If [ever] I do return to England, (which I shan’t though) I will write a poem to which “English Bards” &c., shall be <n>/New Milk in comparison. – Your present literary world of mountebanks stands in need of such an <Avatar> {Avatar}, – but I am not yet quite bilious enough – – a season or two more – and a provocation or two – will wind me up to the point – and then have at the whole set! – I have no patience with the sort of trash you send me out by way of books – except Scott’s novels – & three or four other things I never saw such work or works. – Campbell is lecturing – Moore <doing nothing> {idling} Southey twaddling – Wordsworth drivelving – Coleridge muddling – Joanna Baillie piddling – Bowles quibbling – squabbling – and sniveling.

1:4

Milman will do – if he don’t cant too much. – nor imitate Southey – – the fellow has poesy in him – but he is envious & unhappy, as all the envious are. – – Still he is among the best of the day. – Barry Cornwall will do better by & bye – I dare say – if he don’t get spoilt by green tea – and the praises of Pentonville – & Paradise Row. – – The pity of these men is – that they never lived either in high life nor in solitude – there is no medium for the knowledge of the busy or the still world. – If admitted into high life for a season – it is merely as spectators – they form no part of the Mechanism thereof. – Now Moore and I – the one by circumstances & the other by birth – happened to be free of the corporation – & to have entered into it’s pulses and passions <&> “quarum partes fuisse”.272 Both of us have learnt by this much which nothing else could have taught us. – – –

[scrawl]

2:1

P.S.

I saw one of your betters – another of the Allied Sovereigns of Grub=Street – the other day – viz – Mawman the Great – by whom I sent <compliments> {due homage} to your imperial self. – – – January’s post may perhaps bring a letter from you – but you are the most ungrateful and ungracious of correspondants. – But there is some excuse for you with your perpetual levee of politicians – parsons – scribblers – and loungers – – – some day I will give you a poetical catalogue of them – The post is come – no letter – but never mind, – How is Mrs. Murray & Gifford? – Better? – Say well.

September 16th 1821: Byron writes The Irish Avatar.
September 20th 1821: Byron re-starts The Vision of Judgement.

271: Cain III 440-2.
272: Virgil, Aeneid II 5-6: ipse miserrima vidi, / et quorum pars magna fuì (in plural).
Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, September 20th 1821:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43492; LJ V 369-73; QII 671-4; BLJ VIII 216-18)
[John Murray Esqre / 50 Albermarle Street / London / Angleterre / Inghilterra]

Byron alerts Murray to the fact that suicide runs in his family.

Dear Murray /

You need not send “the Blues” which is a mere buffoonery never meant for publication. – The papers to which I allude in case of Survivorship, are collections of letters, &c. since I was sixteen years old, <some> {contained} in the trunks in the care of M’r. Hobhouse. – – This collection is at least doubled by those I have now <with me> {here; all received} since my last Ostracism. To these I should wish the Editor to have access – not for the purpose of abusing confidences – nor of hurting the feelings of correspondents living – or {the} memories of the dead – but there are things which would do neither, that I have left unnoticed or unexplained – & which (like all such things) Time only can permit to be noticed or explained [though some are to my credit]773 – The task will of course require delicacy – but that will not be wanting if Moore and Hobhouse survive me – and I may add –

1:2

yourself – and that you may all three do so – is I assure you – my very sincere wish. – I am not sure that long life is desirable for one of my temper & constitutional depression of Spirits – which of course I suppress in society – but which breaks out when a lone – and in my writings in spite of myself. It has been deepened perhaps by some long past events (I do not allude to my marriage &c. – on the contrary that raised them by the persecution giving a fillip to my Spirits) but I call it constitutional – as I have reason to think it. – You know or you do not know – that my maternal Grandfather (a very clever man & amiable I am told) was strongly suspected of Suicide – (he was found drowned in the Avon at Bath) and that another very near relative of the same branch – took poison –

1:3

& was merely saved by antidotes. – –

For the first of these events there was no apparent cause – as he was rich, – respected – and of <great> {considerable} intellectual resources – hardly forty years of age – & not at all addicted to any unhinging vice. – It was however but a strong suspicion – owing to the manner of his death – and to his melancholy temper. – – The second had a cause – but it does not become me to touch upon it; – it happened when I was {far} too young to be aware of it – and I never heard of it till after the death of that relative – many years afterwards. – I think then that I may call this rejection – constitutional. – – –

I had always been told that in temper I more resembled my maternal Grandfather than any of my father’s family – that is in the gloomier part of his temper – for he was what you call a good natured man, and I am not. –

1:4

The Journal [here] I sent by Mawman to Moore the other day – but as it is a mere diary, only parts of it would ever do for publication. – – The other Journal of the tour in 1816. – I should think Augusta might let you have a copy of – but her nerves have been in such a state since 1815 – that there is no knowing. – – Lady Byron’s people and L7. Caroline Lamb’s people – and a parcel of that set – got about her & frightened her with all sorts of hints & menaces – so that she has never since been able to write {to} me a clear common letter, and is so full of mysteries and miseries – that I can<not> {only} sympathize – without always understanding her. – All my loves too make a point of calling upon her – which puts her into a flutter (no difficult matter) and {the year before} last I think Lady F. W. W. marched in upon her – and Lady O<xford> a

2:1

2.) few years ago spoke to her at a party – and these and such like calamities have made her afraid of her shadow. – – It is a very odd fancy that they all take to her – – it was only six months ago – that I

773: This interlineation is in very faint, small writing.
had some difficulty in preventing {the} Countess G. from invading her with an Italian letter – I should like to have seen Augusta’s face, with an Etruscan Epistle – & all its Meridional style of “issimas” and other superlatives, before her. – I am {much} mortified that Gifford don’t take to my new dramas – to be sure they are as opposite to the English drama as one thing can be to another – but I have a notion that if I understood they will in time find favour (though not on the stage) with the reader. – – The Simplicity of plot is intentional – and

2:2

the avoidance of rant also – as also the compression of the Speeches in the more severe situations. – What I seek to show in “the Foscaris” is the suppressed passion, rather than the rant of the <rage> (present) day. – – – –
For that matter

"Nay, if thou’lt <rant> {mouthe}
I’ll <mouth> {rant} as well as thou” – 274

would not be difficult – as I think I have shown in my younger productions – not dramatic ones to be sure. – But as I said before I am mortified that Gifford don’t like them – but I see no remedy – – our notions on the subject being so different. – How is he? Well I hope – let me know. –

{Yours ever & truly,}

B} I regret his demur the more that he has been always my grand patron and I know no praise which would compensate me in my own mind for his censure. – I do not mind reviews, as I can work them at their own weapons.

By the way – on our next settle=

2:3

=ment (which will take place with M’. Kinnaird) you will please to deduct the various sums for books – packages received and sent – the bust – tooth-powder &c. &c. expended by you on my account. – – – – – – –

Hobhouse in his preface to “Rimini”275 will probably be better able to explain my dramatic system – <bet> than I could do – as he is well acquainted with the whole thing. – – –
It is more upon the Alfieri School than the English. – – –
I hope that we shall not have M’. Rogers here – – there is a mean min<utess>nuteness in his mind & tittle that I dislike – ever since I found him out (which was but slowly) besides he is not a good man – – only don’t he go to bad? – what does he do travelling?

2:4 [above address:] The Journal of 1814 I dare say Moore will give – or a copy, –

Has “Cain” (the dramatic third attempt) arrived yet? Let me know. – – –
[below address:] Address to me at Pisa – whither I am going. – – – – –

The reason is that all my [Italian] friends here have been exiled for the present – and I go to join them, as agreed upon for the Winter. – –

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, September 24th 1821:
(Source: text from Leeds Brotherton, photocopy; LJ V 373-5; QII 674-6; BLJ VIII 219-21)

Byron orders Murray to send him no more books, journals, or opinions.

Ravenna, September 24th, 1821

Dear Murray /

I have been thinking over our late correspondence and wish to propose to you the following articles for our future –

1⁴⁸) – That you shall write to me of yourself – of the health <and> wealth and welfare of all friends; but of me (quoad me) little or nothing. –

275: B. still expects H. to publish his translation of Pellico’s Francesca da Rimini.
2dly.) That you shall send me Soda powders – tooth=paste – tooth=brushes – or any such articles as heretofore “ad libitum” upon being re-imbursed for the same.

3dly.) That you shall not send me any modern or (as they are called) new publications in English – whatsoever – save and excepting <a/>Any writing prose or verse of (or [reasonably] presumed to be of) Walter Scott – Crabbe – Moore – Campbell – Rogers – Gifford – Joanna Baillie, Irving (the American) Hogg – Wilson (Isle of Palms Man) or any especial single work [of fancy] which is thought to be of considerable merit. – Voyages and travels – provided that they are neither in Greece Spain Asia Minor Albania nor Italy will be welcome – having travelled the countries mentioned – I know that what is said of them can <add> convey nothing [further] which I desire to know about them. – No other English works whatsoever.


5thly.) That you send me no opinions whatsoever.

1:2

either good – bad – or indifferent – of yourself, or your friends or others – concerning any work or works of mine – past – present – or to come. – –

6thly.) That all negotiations in matters of business between you and me pass through the medium of the Honble Douglas Kinnaird – my friend and trustee, or Mr. Hobhouse – as “Alter Ego” and tantamount to myself during my absence – or presence. – – – – –

Some of these propositions may at first seem strange – but they are founded. – The quantity of trash I have received as books is incalculable, and neither amused nor instructed. –

<Rs> Reviews & Magazines – <they> are at the best but ephemeral & superficial reading – who thinks of the grand article of last year in any given review? in the next place – if they regard myself – they tend to increase Egotism. – – if favourable – I do not deny that the praise elates. – and if unfavourable {that} the abuse irritates – the latter may conduct {me} to {inflict} a species of Satire – which would neither do good to you nor to your friends – they may smile [now.] and so may you – but if I took you all in hand – it would not be difficult to cut you up like gourds – I did as much by as powerful people at nineteen years old – & I know little as yet in three & thirty – which should prevent me from making <them> {all your} ribs <or> Gridirons for <their> {your} hearts – if such were my propensity. – But it is not. – Therefore let me hear

1:3

none of your provocations276 – if anything occurs so very gross as to require my notice – I shall hear of it from my personal friends. – For the rest – I merely request to be left in ignorance. – – –

The same applies to opinions good <or> bad or indifferent of persons in conversation [or correspondence:] these do not interrupt but they soil the current of my Mind: – I am sensitive enough – but not till I am touched – & here I am beyond the touch of the short arms of [literary] England – except the <very> few feelers of the Polypus that crawl over the Channel in the way of Extract. – –

All these precautions in England would be useless – – the libeller or the flatterer would there reach me in spite of all – but in Italy we know little of [literary] England & think less except what reaches us through some <short> [garbled & brief] extract in some miserable Gazette. – – For two years (excepting two or three articles cut out & sent by you, by the post) I never read a newspaper – which was not forced upon me by some accident – & know upon the whole as little of England – as you [all] do of Italy – & God knows – that is little enough with all your travels &c., &c., &c. – The English travellers know Italy as you know <Jersey> {Guernsey} – how much is that? –

If any thing [occurs so] violently gross or personal [as to] require notice, <let> [M’. D’ Kinnaird will let] me know – – but of praise [I desire to hear] nothing. – – –

You will say – “to what tends all this?” –” I will answer that – – to keep my mind free and

1:4

unbiased – by all paltry and personal irritabilities of praise or censure; – to let my Genius take its’ own [natural] direction, – <and sincere as> {while my feelings are} like the dead – who know nothing and feel nothing of all or aught that is said or done in their regard. – – –

276: “provocations” is written over a word of exactly the same length, perhaps also “provocations”.
If you can observe these conditions you will spare yourself & others some pain – let me not be worked upon to rise up – for if I do – it will not be for a little; – if you can not observe these conditions we shall cease to be correspondents – but not friends – for I shall always be yr ever and truly,

Byron

P.S. I have taken these resolutions not from any irritation against you or yours but simply upon reflection that all reading either praise or censure of myself has done me harm. – When I was in Switzerland and Greece I was out of the way of hearing either – & how I wrote there! – In Italy I am out of the way of it too – but latterly partly through my fault – & partly through your kindness in wishing to send me the newest and most periodical publications – I have had a crowd of reviews &c. thrust upon me – which have bored me with their jargon of one kind or another – & taken off my attention from greater objects. – – You have also sent me a parcel of trash of poetry for no reason that I can conceive – unless to provoke me to write a new “English Bards” – Now this I wish to avoid – for if ever I do – it will be a strong production – and I desire peace as long as the fools will keep their nonsense out of my way. – – –

[crosswise at bottom of 1:4:]

To, / John Murray Esqre / 50 Albemarle Street / London

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, September 27th 1821:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43492; LJ V 376-7; BLJ VIII 224-5)
[To, John Murray Esqre. / 50. Albemarle Street. / London. / Angleterre. / Inghilterra.] Sept. 27th. 1821.

Dear Murray /

Give the enclosed to Moore when he comes over – as he is about to do. – – It contains something for you to look at – but not for publication. – Address to Pisa. – I thought Ricciardetto was Rose’s – but pray thank Lord Glenbervie therefore. – He is an old & kind friend of mine – if [Ms. tear: “it”] be the old man you mean. – Is the young one dead or alive? – I mean the “modern Greek” – Frederick S. Douglas? – Moore & you can settle between you about the “Memoranda” – I can only do what I can to accommodate your arrangements – as fixed betwteen you – which I shall do readily & Cheerfully. – yns. in haste m – – – [scrawl]

P.S. – Is “Cain” arrived? – – He was sent on the 11th in three packets. –

[Side 2, above address:] Did you get a new Italian account of M. Faliero’s Conspiracy for a note – sent two months ago by the post & printed for the first time? – –

Murray to Byron, from 50, Albemarle Street London, September 28th 1821:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43497; LJM 424)
[Milord / Milord Byron / poste restante / Ravenna / Italie // arrived: Forli 18 October]
The newly-arrived Cain – the mistakes in Don Juan – the Memoirs – and the Thorwaldsen bust – all got out of the way on one sheet.

I will write fully by next post – but I would not lose a moment

Dearest Sir

I have this instant arrived in town & find an accumulation of packets from your Lordship which I have just time merely to acknowledge – the last three containing the Tragedy of Cain has the Mistakes in printing Don Juan – I will prove to exist in – the MSS – & Hobhouse read every proof

Moore is in town & incog – I have the precious Memoirs –
Most faithfully your Lordships
obliged Servant
J. Murray
Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, September 28th 1821:
(Source: NLS Ms.43492; LJ V 378; Q II 676-9; BLJ VIII 226)

[To, / John Murray Esq. / 50. Albemarle Street. / London. / Angleterre.]

Even though he’s far from dead, Byron is helping Murray edit his posthumous papers. He omits from the list of correspondents Scott, Coleridge, Hanson, Clarke, Hoppner, Davies, the Shelleys, Hunt, Sligo, Kinnaird, Augusta, and his mother.

Septr. 28th. 1821.

Dear Moray /

I add another cover to request you to ask Moore to obtain (if possible) my letters to the late Lady Melbourne from Lady Cowper. – They are very numerous & ought to have been restored long ago – as I was ready to give back Lady M’s in exchange; – these latter are in M’. Hobhouse’s custody with my other papers & shall be punctually restored if required. – I did not choose before to apply to Lady Cowper – as <the subject of> her mother’s death naturally kept me from intruding upon her feelings at the time of its’ occurrence. Some years have now elapsed – & it is essential that I should have my own epistles. – – – – – 

They are essential as confirming that part of the “Memoranda” which refer to the two periods (1812 – & 1814 –) when my marriage with her niece was in contemplation – & will tend to show what my real views and feelings were upon that subject – which have been so variously represented. – – – 

You need not let this motive be stated to L’. C’ as it in no degree concerns her particularly – but if they refuse to give them up – (or keep back any – recollect – that they are in great quantity) it would become the duty of the Editor and my Executors to refer to parts of Lady Melbourne’s letters – so that the thing is as broad as it is long. – – – – – 

They involve also many other topics – which may or may not be referred to – according to the discretion of Moore &. when the time comes. – You need not be alarmed the “fourteen years” will hardly elapse without some mortality amongst us – it is a long lease of life to speculate upon. So your Cent per Cent Shylock Calculation will not be in so much peril, as the

“Argosie” will sink before that time – and “the pound of flesh” be withered previously to y’. being so long out of a return. – I also wish to give you a hint or two (as you have really behaved very handsomely to M. in the business – and are a fine fellow in your line) for y’. advantage. – If by y’. own management you can extract any of my epistles from L’. Caroline Lamb (mind she don’t give you forgeries in my hand; she has done as much you know before now) they might be of use in y’. collection – (sinking of course the names – & all such circumstances as might hurt living feelings – or those of survivors –) they treat of more topics than love occasionally. – – – 

As to those <up> {to} other correspondents (female &’) there are plenty scattered about in the world – but how to direct you to recover them – I know not – – most of them have kept them, I hear at least that L’. O. – & F. W. have {kept} theirs277 – but {these letters} are of course inaccessible – (& perhaps not desirable) as well as those of some others. – I will tell you – who may have happen to have some letters of mine – in their possession – Lord Powerscourt some to his {late} brother – M’. Long of – (I forget the place) but the father of Edward Long of the Guards, who was drowned {in} going to Lisbon early in 1809. Miss Elizabeth Pigot of Southwell – {Notts} (she may be Mistress by this time for she had more years than I) they were not love=letters – so that you might have them without scruple. – There are or might be some to the late Rev’J. C. Tattersall – in the hands of his brother (half=brother) M’. Wheatley – who

277: No letters have been found from B. to Lady Oxford.
resides near Canterbury I think. – – There are some to Charles Gordon – now of Dulwich – and some {few} to M'. Chaworth – but these

2:1

2.) latter are probably destroyed or inaccessible. – – All my letters to Lady B. before and since her marriage are in her possession – as well as her own which I sent to her – she had not the courtesy to restore me mine – – but never mind – -- though they were too much to my credit – for her to give them back – we can do without them. – I mention these people and particulars – merely as chances – most of them have probably destroyed the letters – which in fact were of little import – most of them written [when] very young – & several at School & College. – – Peel – (the second brother of the Secretary) was a correspondent of mine – and also Porter the son of the Bishop of Clogher – – Lord Clare a very voluminous one – – William Harness (a friend of Jew Milman’s) another – Charles Drummond (son of the Banker) – William Bankes (the Voyager) you

2:2 [above address:] friend R. C. Dallas Esq: – Hodgson – Henry Drury – Hobhouse – you [were] already aware of. – – I have gone through this long list of the “cold, the faithless – and the dead.” because I know that like “the curious in [below address:] fish sauce – you are a researcher of such things. – Besides these, <ar> there are other occasional ones to literary men – & so forth – -- complimentary &c. &c. &c. not worth <a Cxxxxxx> much more than the rest. – There are some hundreds too of Italian notes of mine – scribbled with a noble contempt of the grammar and dictionary & in very English Etruscan – for I speak Italian very [text continues up right-hand side of page:] fluently but write it carelessly & incorrectly to a degree. –

October 4th 1821: Byron finishes The Vision of Judgement.

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, October 4th 1821:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43492; LJ V 386-7; BLJ VIII 232)
Byron sends Murray The Vision of Judgement, thereby sowing the seeds of their final estrangement. There is no fair copy of The Vision. Byron has entrusted the only text of his greatest completed poem to the post.

Octr. 4th. 1821.

Dear Murray /
I send you in 8 sheets – and 106 stanzas (octave) a poem entitled a “Vision of Judgement &c. by Quevedo redivivus” of which you will address the proof to me at Pisa – and an answer by return of post. – Pray – let the Printer be as careful as he can to decipher it – which may not be so easy. – – –
It may happen that you will be afraid to publish it – in that case find me a publisher – assuring him – that if he gets into a scrape I will give up my name {or person.} I do not approve of yr. mode of not putting publisher’s names on title pages – (which was unheard of – till you gave yourself that air); – an author’s case is different – and from time immemorial have published anonymously. – – –
I wait to hear the arrival of various packets

Address to Pisa. – – –

[Side 2 blank.]

Byron to John Murray, October 6th 1821:
(Source: from Morgan Library MA 0062, 286952, Item 52; BLJ VIII 235)
Transcription by Paul Curtis, modified

[To – J'. Murray Esq. / 50. Albermarle Street / London / Angleterre ]
Octr. 6th. 1821.

Dear Moray /

Please to present ye inclosed to M'. Moore. – – –
Also please to acknowledge by next post the arrival of a packet containing “the Vision” &c. which is sent to you with this – that is – by the same post. – – –

278: B. won’t concede that it was his marriage too.
Address to Pisa.

yrs. [scrawl]

October 9th 1821: Byron starts Heaven and Earth.

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, October 9th 1821:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43492: LJ V 388-9; BLJ VIII 236-8)
[da Bologna / To, John Murray Esq. / 50. Albermarle Street. / London. / Angleterre. / Inghilterra.]

This is not a linear letter. It is a large piece of paper containing seven discrete sections in different places and at different angles.

R° Oct. 9th. 1821.

By the way you have a good deal of my prose tracts in M.S.S. Let me have proofs of them all again – I mean the controversial ones – including the last two or three years of time.

Another question? The Epistle of S.t. Paul which I translated from the Armenian – for what reason have you kept it back, though you published that stuff which gave rise to “the Vampire” Is it because you are afraid to print [text curls round and down right-hand side, crossing main body of letter at right-angles:] any thing in opposition to the Cant of the Quarterly about “Manicheism”? Let me have a proof of that Epistle directly. I am I better Christian than those Parsons of yours though not paid for being so.

Dear Moray /

You will please to present or convey the enclosed poem* to M°. Moore, – I sent him another copy to Paris – but he has probably left that city. – It is doubtful whether the poem was written by Felicia Hemans for the prize of the Dartmoor Academy – or by <M>. [the Rev.°] W. L. Bowles with a view to a bishopric – your own great <sagacity> [discernment] will decide between them. By last post I sent the “Vision of Judgment by Quevedo Redivivus” – I just piddle a little with these trifles to keep my hand in for the New “English Bards &c.” which I perceive some of your people are in want of – and which I only wait for a short visit to your country to put me in possession of the nonsense of some of your newer ragamuffins – to commence. – I have not sought it – but if I do begin – – it shall go hard – as Shylock says – “but I better the Instruction”.380 – – –

yrs. ever [scrawl]

Address to Pisa & acknowledge {all} packets {– by name} – else it makes Confusion. – –

[Side 2, above address:] P.S. – If there is anything new of Israeli’s – send it me. – I like Israeli – <secondly> 1st°. he “having done the handsome thing by Me” as Winifred Jenkins [says,] when you showed him (you shabby fellow) my marginal notes in Athens upon [his] essay – instead of being angry like a spoilt child of ink and paper – and 2nd°. because he is the Bayle of literary speculation – and puts together more amusing information than anybody – & 3rd°. he likes Pope. –

[below address:] Don’t forget to send me my first act of “Werner” ([if] Hobhouse call find it amongst my papers) send it by the post (to Pisa) and also cut out Sophia Lee’s “German’s tale” from the “Canterbury tales” and sent it in a letter also. – I began that tragedy in 1815 – – but Lady Byron’s farce put it out of my head for the time of <that> [her] representation. – – –

2:1 Send.

Faber’s treatise on “the Cabiri.

Sainte – Croix’s “Mysteres du Paganisme” – (scarce perhaps; but to be found – as Mitford refers to <it oft> his work <oft> frequently)

A common bible of a good legible print (bound in Russia) I have one – but as it was the last gift of my Sister – (whom I shall probably never see again) I can only use it carefully – and <with> less frequently – because I like to keep it in good order – – –

279: The Irish Avatar.

280: Shakespeare, The Merchant of Venice, III i 62.

281: Smollett, Humphrey Clinker, final letter.
Don’t forget this – for I am a great reader and admirer of those books – and had read them through & through before I was eight years old – that is to say the old

2:2

[Ms. tear: “Test”]ament – for the New struck me as a task – but the other as a pleasure – – I speak as a boy – from the [recollected] impression of that period at Aberdeen in 1796.

Any Novels of Scott or poetry of {y.} same; – ditto of Crabbe – Moore – and the Elect – but none of y’. damned common place trash – unless something starts up of actual Merit – which may {very} well be – – for ‘tis time it should. – –

Plutarch’s morals – &c. in the old English translation. – –

Gillies’ Greece – &c. and Interval between Alexander and Augustus (I have Mitford) in Octavo if possible – I can’t read quartos. – – –

[Sheet 3 not yet found:]

“Life of Apollonius of Tyana” published (or translated) 8 or nine (9) years ago.

“Leslie’s Short and Easy Method with the Deists.” I want a Bayle, but am afraid of the carriage and the weight, as also of folios in general.

“Burton’s Anatomy of Melancholy.”

**Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, October 20th 1821:**
(Source: NLS Ms.43492; LJ V 392; BJ VIII 244)

[To, Jno. Murray Esq. / 50. Albemarle Street. / London. / Angletterre. / Inghilterra.]

Byron answers Murray’s of September 28th. He describes their relationship as one based on market-economics only.

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Oct. 20th.1821.

Dear Moray /

If errors are in the M.S.S. – write me down an Ass – they are not – & I am content to undergo any penalty if they be. – Besides, the omitted Stanza (last but one or two) sent afterwards – was that in the M.S.S. too? – – –

Have you received a printed sheet or two from an old M.S.S. – as a note to the Doge? {sent two months ago?} – I am anxious about that. –

As to “honour” I will trust no man’s honour in affairs of barter. – I will tell you why. – A state of bargain is Hobbes’s “state of nature, – a state of war.” – It is so with all men. – If I come to a friend – and say “friend, lend me five hundred pounds!” he either does it or says <why> {that} he can’t or won’t. – But if I come to Ditto – and say “Ditto, – I have an excellent house – or horse – or carriage – or M.S.S. or books – or pictures – &c. &c. &c. &c.

1:2

honestly worth a thousand pounds, – you shall have them for five hundred – – – what does Ditto say? – Why he looks at them – he hums – he ha’s – he humbugs – if he can – to get a bargain as cheaply as he can – because it is a bargain – this is in the blood & bone of mankind – and the same man who would lend another a thousand pounds without interest – would not buy a horse of him for half it’s value if he could help it. – – It is so – – there’s no denying it – – & therefore I will have as much as I can – & you will give as little. – And there’s an end. – All men are intrinsical rascals; – and I am only sorry that not being a dog I can’t bite them. – [long scrawl]

So Thomas is in town incog. =

1:3

love to him. – I except him from my regretted morsures – for I have always found him the pink of honour – and honesty – – besides I liked his country till it’s late performance. – – –

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By the way did Mawman or Mawman’s [friend] deliver to him the two M.S.S. Books – consigned for him? –
This is your concern so anatomize Mawman about it. – They belong to your posthumous adventure –
that is to say – to mine. –
I am filling another for you with little anecdotes {to my own knowledge or well authenticated –} of
Sheridan – Curran &c. and such other public men – as I recollect to have been acquainted with – for – I knew – most of them more or less. I will do what I can to prevent your losing by my obsequies. –
Acknowledgement packets. –

P.S.
Address to Pisa. –

1:4 [above address:] P.S. – Acknowledge “Vision of Judgement by Quevedo Redivivus” sent on the 9th. – also “The Irish Avatar (for Mr. Moore) – put in the letter=bag afterwards – a day or two.

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, October 26th 1821 (a):
(Source: NLS Ms.43492; LJ V 397; BLJ VIII 248)
[To, John Murray Esq“ / 50. Albemarle Street. / London. / Angleterre.]
Ra Oct 26. 1821.
Dear Moray /
I waited here another week to receive the proofs of “Cain” which have not arrived – though your letter announced them for next post. I must start for Pisa on Saturday – so by this means there is a fortnight lost – for the proof must follow through cross posts. – Upon my word – you will provoke me to play you some trick one of these days that you won’t like. – – – – –
By this post I send you a third corrected copy of “Don Juan” – –
I will thank you to be more careful in future.

y [scrawl]

Please to acknowledge
the “Vision of Judgement by Quevedo redivivus”
and other packets. – – –

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, October 26th 1821 (b):
(Source: NLS Ms.43492; LJ V 397; BLJ VIII 248)
[To, John Murray Esq“ / 50. Albemarle Street. / London. / London.]
This letter has its address on the two centre sides.
Ra. Oct 26th. 1821.
Dear Moray /
You say the errors are in the M.S.S. – now – excuse me – {but} this is not true – and I defy you to prove it to be true. – – –
The truth is you are a fine gentleman – and negligent as becomes a mighty man in his business. –
I send you a third copy corrected with some alteration – & by this and the other corrected copies I request you to <dr> print any future impression. –

Byron. –
P.S.
Collate [this] with the other two copies both sent by the post. – – –
And pray when I send you a parcel or packet – do acknowledge it – I care nothing about my letters or your answers – I only want to know, when I have taken trouble about a thing that it has arrived. – – – – – –

[vertically up left-hand side:] You shall be the hero of my next poem – will you publish it? – – –

[1:4 blank]

Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, late October 1821:
(Source: NLS Ms.43492; BLJ VIII 247)
[To, John Murray Esq“ / 50. Albemarle Street. / London. / Angleterre. / Inghilterra.]
Dear Moray /
The enclosed is for M’. Moore. – Address you to Pisa – and acknowledge packets – various & sundry. – “A vision of Judgement” and another poem, for M’. Moore the latter. – – – – Rogers is at Venice – and has written to me to meet here – but I have been obliged to transfer to Bologna – because all my furniture &c, is now at Pisa – & I have no conveniences for a visitor. – On Saturday I expect to find him & myself there.

yrs. truly [scrawl]

**Byron to Murray, from Ravenna, October 30th 1821:**
(Source: NLS Ms.43492; LJ V 400; BLJ VIII 251)
[To, John Murray Esq’. / 50. Albemarle Street. / London. / Angleterre.]

D’. Moray /
You say the errors were in the M.S.S. of D.J. – but the omitted stanza – which I sent to you in an after letter – and the omitted notes? – please to replace them

I am just setting off for Pisa.

Favour the enclosed to Mr. Moore – – –

Address to Pisa. [scrawl]

**On October 29th 1821 Byron moves from Ravenna to Pisa to rejoin Teresa’s family, and Shelley’s circle of friends.**

**P.S. of Byron to Murray, from Pisa, November 1821:**
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43492; BLJ IX 53)
[To, John Murray Esqre, / 50. Albemarle Street. / London. / Angleterre. / Inghilterra]

P.S. – I crossed the Appennines with Rogers as far as Florence. – – On the road from Imola to Bologna I met Lord Clare – whom I had not seen for seven years – he was one of my earliest & dearest friends and our meeting was almost pathetic – It sent me back to Harrow again. – – –
I met Rogers at Bologna – in a florid state – he is a most agreeable companion in a post=chaise283 and we slashed away to right and left – cutting up all our acquaintances, – and indeed – every body else. – –
It would have done your heart good to hear us. – You were not spared by any means – but as nobody else was – you were in very good

1:2 [above address: company – I don’t think that I heard & uttered so much slander for these last seven years. – But He is a clever fellow that’s certain – & said some [below address:] wonderful things. – – – – – – –

**Byron to Murray, from Pisa, November 3rd 1821:**
(Source: NLS Ms.43492; LJ V 469; BLJ IX 53-5)
[No address.]

**Byron seems to be answering a Murray letter (about Cain) which is missing. In it he is more offensive to Murray than ever before, and ends by saying that Thorwaldsen’s bust is the property of Hobhouse.**

Pisa Nov’. 3rd. 1821.

Dear Moray /

The two passages cannot be altered without making Lucifer talk like the Bishop of Lincoln – which would not be in the character of the former. – – The notion is from Cuvier (– {that} of the old Worlds) as I have explained in an additional note to the preface. – The other passage is also in Character – if nonsense – so much the better – because then it can do no harm – & the sillier Satan is [made] the <better> {safer} for every body. – – As to “alarms” &c. do you really think such things ever led anybody astray, are these people more impious than Milton’s Satan? – or the Prometheus of Æschylus? – or even than the Sadducees of your envious parson the “Fall of Jerusalem” fabricator? – Are not Adam – Eve – Adah – and Abel as pious as the Catechism? – – –

1:2

283: Scott, *The Antiquary*, Chap 2: “he only knew Mr. Lovel as a pleasant companion in a post-chaise”. 
Gifford is too wise a man to think that such things to have any serious effect – who was ever altered by a poem? I beg leave to observe that there is no creed nor personal hypothesis of mine in all this – but I was obliged to make Cain and Lucifer talk consistently – and surely this has always been permitted to poesy. – – Cain is a proud man – if Lucifer promised him kingdoms &c. – it would elate him – the object of the demon is to depress him still further in his own estimation than he was before – by showing him infinite things – & his own abasement – till he falls into the frame of mind – that leads to the Catastrophe – from mere internal irritation – – not premeditation or envy – of Abel – (which would have made him contemptible –) but from rage and fury against the inadequacy of his state to his Conceptions. – & which discharges itself rather against Life – and the author of Life – than the mere living. – – – 
His subsequent remorse is the natural effect of looking on his {sudden} deed – had the deed been premeditated – his repentence would have been tardier. – – 
The three {last M.S.} lines of Eve’s curse are replaced from memory on the proofs, but incorrectly (for I keep no copies) – Either keep these three – or replace {them with} the other three – whichever are thought least bad by Mr. Gifford. – – There is no occasion for a revise – it is only losing time. – Either dedicate it to Walter Scott – or if you think – he would like the dedication to “{the} Foscaris” better – put the dedication to “the Foscaris” – Ask him which. – – – Your first note was queer enough – but your two other letters with Moore’s & Gifford’s opinions set all right again – I told you before that I can never recast <anythe> anything. – I am like the Tiger – if I miss the first spring – I go growling {back} to my Jungle again – but if I do hit – it is crushing. – – – – Now for M’. Mawman. – – I received him civilly as your friend – and he spoke of you in a friendly manner. – As one of the Squadron of Scribblers – I could not but pay due reverence to a commissioned officer. – I gave him that book with the inscription to show to you – that you might correct the errors. – With the rest I can have nothing to do – but he served you very right. – You have played the Stepmother to D. J. – throughout. – Either ashamed – or afraid – or negligent – to your own loss and nobody’s credit. – – – –

2:1

Who ever heard before of a publisher’s not putting his name? – The reasons for my anonyme – I stated – they were family ones entirely. – – – – Some {travelling} Englishmen whom I met the other day at Bologna told me – that you affect to wish <not> to be considered as <the} {not} having anything to with that work – which by the way – is sad half and half dealing – for you will be a long time before you publish a better poem. – – 
You seem hurt at the words “the publisher” what! you who won’t put your name on the title page – would have had me stick J. M. Esq². on the blank leaf – no – Murray – you are an excellent fellow – a little variable – & somewhat of the opinion of every body you talk with – (particularly the last person you see) but a good fellow for all that – yet nevertheless – I can’t tell you that I think you have acted very gallantly by

2:2

that persecuted book – which has made it’s way entirely by itself – without the light of your countenance – or any kind of encouragement – critical – or bibliopolar. – You disparaged the last three cantos to me – & kept them back {above} a year – but I have heard from England – that (notwithstanding the errors of the press) they are well thought of – for instance – by American Irving – which {last} is a feather in my (fool’s) Cap. – – – – – –
You have received my letter (open) through M’. Kinnaird – & so pray – send me no more reviews of any kind. – – – –
I will read no more of evil or good in that line. – – Walter Scott has not read a review of himself for thirteen years. – The bust is not my property – but Hobhouse’s – I addressed it to you as an Admiralty man great at the custom house – pray – deduct the expences of the same – & all others. Your ever & most [scrawl]
Byron to Murray, from Pisa, November 9th 1821:
(Source: Ms. not found; text from Moore’s Life II 557; LJ V 472; BLJ IX 57)

Pisa, Nov. 9, 1821.

I never read the Memoirs at all, not even since they were written; and I never will: the pain of writing them was enough; you may spare me that of a perusal. Mr. Moore has (or may have) a discretionary power to omit any repetition, or expressions which do not seem good to him, who is a better judge than you or I.

Byron to Murray, from Pisa, November 12th 1821:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43492; LJ V 472; BLJ IX 58)

Byron is again addressing Murray as “Dear Sir”.

Pisa. Nov. 12th. 1821

Dear Sir /

I have marked on the back of the enclosed proof of the letter <to> Mr. Wilson – the names of the writings mostly unpublished which if collected together – would form a volume or two which might be entitled Miscellanies. – You must recollect however that the letter on the British review signed Clutterbuck must have a note stating that the name of Clutterbuck was adopted long before (a year I think) the publication of the Monastery & Abbot.²⁸⁴ – If you don’t do this – I shall be accused (with the usual justice) of plagiarism from Walter Scott. – – – – –
The whole of these tracts might be published simply and unostentatiously – with the letter on B’s Pope at the head of them. – –
Be careful about their dates – Let me know your intention

y'. hum'le Ser'.

[scrawl]

[To, John Murray Esq'. / 50. Albemarle Street / London / Angleterre / Inghilterra.]

Opened by me – this day Nov'. 14th. 1821, and sent to Mr. Kinnaird. – B

[1:4 blank.]

Murray to Byron, from 50, Albemarle Street, London, November 14th 1821:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43497; LJM 426-7)

London <Oct'> Nov'. 14 – 1821

My Lord

I received your Letter of the 20th Oct'. on Saturday last – I will send you the MSS of Juan in wch you will find some of the faults & another wch was doubtful as you omitted to erase for what you substituted. The omitted Stanza I certainly plead guilty too, but intending to have it extracted to your letter, I forgot to do it & so it became mingled with your Lordships other letters – but where there is no mala anamus you should certainly be less enraged – I have cancelled what I had & am printing the whole correctly. I have received two Copies of Juan from you by post each costing £6. 7 – 8 postage – I have now sent you all the books you wrote for & amongst them your own Copy of Burton wch I got at yr sale²⁸⁵ – the bible I have sent you is one with a selection of the best commentaries. As to new books I am sure you know very well that I do not send them to you as a matter of trade – for my dealings are for MSS – & with booksellers – but they were sent merely to give you a specimen of modern literature —–

I did receive the printed Sheet to <a> be appended as a note to the next edition of the Doge, wch shall be carefully done —–

At this place I am interrupted by the arrival of your Lordships Letter dated R' Oct' 26 – it surprises me very much indeed to find by it that you had not received the proofs of Cain which were sent as regularly as I had previously

²⁸⁴: Captain Clutterbuck appears in both 1820 novels.
²⁸⁵: Burton’s Anatomy of Melancholy was bought by Murray in the 1816 sale for £1 8s.
announced to your Lordship – addressed as you have constantly enjoined to Pisa – & this being the case how could you expect to receive it in course at Ravenna whence I perceive you continue to date – since that I have also a fortnight ago sent you even the proofs of the Vision of Judgment – I hope you will find that at least the neglect is not mine, for I sent the proof as soon as it could be completed – A Third Copy of Juan – a Visitation – £6. 7 – 8 – more – I have now settled with M’ Moore for the Memoirs & I inclose the paper with his signature for the addition, if you approve, of yours, in the presence of two witnesses I am very much obliged indeed for the recollection of Persons which your Lordship tells me you are preparing – these cannot fail of being very interesting & valuable & will give great variety to the work.

I sent you various Scraps of Prose <fo> but I would advise the mere publication of the Tragedies & Mystery this winter – for these & Juan III IV – V I have proposed Two Thousand Five Hundred Guineas to M’ Kinnaird. The Copyright of Juan I can not substantiate without endless litigation & giving up the name of the Author – there are already two pirated editions of the whole – if any new Stanzas or episode occur to you pray give it me to render mine at least the most perfect Edition.

I remain Dearest Sir
Your Lordships
faithful Servant
John Murray

Every Post I have expected to receive back the corrected Proofs of Cain – so long have they been spent – if they do not arrive by Tuesday next I will send another Copy

Byron to Murray, from Pisa, November 14th 1821:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43492; LJ V 473-5; BLJ IX 58-9)

Byron now sends Murray Heaven and Earth; Murray does not publish it.

Dear Sir / Enclosed is a lyrical drama (entitled a Mystery from it’s subject) which perhaps may arrive in time for the volume. – If it should not (for I must have the proofs first as it <illegible> {is} not very legibly written) you can add it to the volume with the Pulci and Dante. – Perhaps – you might publish it in a separate [appendix] form of the same <size> {type} &’. for the purchasers of “Cain” {so that they might bind it up with the {new} volume} and then put it together with the others in a second edition – supposing a second edition possible. – – You will find it pious enough I trust – at least some of the Chorus might have {been} written by Sternhold and Hopkins themselves for that – and perhaps for melody. – As it is longer <th> and more lyrical {& Greek} than I intended at first – I have not <made> {divided} it into acts but called what I have sent – Part first – as there is a suspension of the action which may either close there without impropriety – or be continued in a way that I have in view. – I wish the first part to be published before the second – because if it don’t succeed – it is better to stop there – than to go on in a fruitless experiment. – – – – – – – I desire you to acknowledge the arrival of the packet by return of post – if you can conveniently – with a proof. –

y’l obed’. Ser’.
B[scrawl]
P.S.

286: Detached Thoughts.
287: Heaven and Earth.
288: Sixteenth-century psalmodists.
My wish is to have it published at the same time – and if possible – in the same volume [with the others; because] whatever the merits or demerits of these pieces may be – it will [perhaps] be allowed that each is of a different kind and in a different style – so that including the prose and the D J’s &c. – I have at least sent you variety during the last year or two. – The present [packet] consists of 12 sheets – which will make more than fifty printed pages additional to the Volume. I suppose [that] there is not enough in the four plays (or poems) to make two volumes but they will form one large one.

Two words to say that you have received the packet will be enough.

Byron to Murray, from Pisa, November 15th-16th 1821:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43492; BLJ IX 59-60)

Byron answers another Murray letter which is missing.

Sir /

The enclosed {which {I only received by this day’s post}} you addressed by mistake to Ravenna. I presume that the three plays are to be published together – because if not – I will not permit their {separate} publication. – I repeat this because a passage in your letter makes it doubtful. – – I sent you a fourth by last post (a lyrical drama on a scriptural subject “the Deluge”) which I could wish to be published at the same time and (if possible & in time) in the same volume. – I return you the notes – (not of “the Doge” as you say by mistake) but of the new poems. – – – Most of the packets have I believe arrived in safety. – – I wrote to Mr. K to accept your proposal for the three plays {& three cantos of D. J.} distinctly giving to understand that the other poems did not enter into that agreement. – – –

I am yr. obed. &c.

P.S. – What is the reason that I see “Cain” – & the “Foscaris” announced and not “Sardanapalus”?

[1:2 blank.]

Byron to Murray, from Pisa, November 24th 1821:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43492; BLJ IX 69-71)

Hobhouse has sent Byron a very angry letter (currently lost), criticising Cain, accusing Byron over the Memoirs, and saying that Murray assumes the Thorwaldsen bust to be his.

Pisa. Nov⁴, 24th. 1821.

Dear Sir / By a not very temperate letter from M’. Hobhouse – in a style which savours somewhat of the London tavern⁴ – I perceive that there has been some mistake or misunderstanding about the block of a bust. – –

This as I do not understand – I can not explain. – I addressed it to your care for M’. Hobhouse – and indeed with his name on the direction – always understood – that expences were to be at my charge – and that the trouble would not be greater than you have often been willing to take. – I thought that as publisher to the Admiralty &c. – you would be able more easily to get it through the Customs house. – Something however has happened it seems to excite M’. H’s indignation – and I could really wish to be spared such altercations – as (were he not one of my oldest friends) must have ended in a total rupture. – For this you must be partly to blame – as surely my directions were extremely clear. – – – –

Of his language to me I can only say that I can hardly believe him to have been sober when he used it. – – Not content with an invective about the marble – he has launched (uncalled for, for I did not solicit his opinion that I recollect at least) into a most violent invective upon the subject of “Cain” – (not on a religious account at all as he says) and in such terms as make the grossest review in the lowest

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289: This is the missing letter from H.; he alludes to it on January 3rd.
publication that ever I read upon any scribbler – <modest> moderate in comparison. – – He then proceeds (still unasked) upon the subject of the M.S.S. sold by M’. Moore – and I do not know which of the two he bespatters most. – Having thus “bespattered the poetical eminence of the day” as Gifford says <to quiz> Timothy Adney in “the Baviad [& Maviad] I should be glad to know whether there is anything reproachable in the means or the motive of that transaction?

1:3

I can derive no profit from it – and Moore in doing so was merely anticipating a legacy – at my express desire often repeated to him. – Whatever blame then there may be is mine – and ought to be. – – Does M’. Hobhouse dispute my right to leave Memoirs of myself for posthumous publication? – Have not thousands done it? – Are there not – or – have there not been circumstances which require it in my case – or would he have me leave the tale for him to tell? – – But the best is – that I happen to know he himself keeps – and has kept for many years a regular diary and disquisition upon all his personal as well as public transactions 290 – and has he done this with no view to posthumous publication? I will not believe it. – I shall not quote his expressions – because really some of them {to me} could only be noticed in one way – & that way neither present

1:4
distance – nor past intimacy were I nearer – would induce me to take – without some {overt} action accompanied the harshness of his language. – I have even written him as temperate an answer as I believe ever human being did in the like circumstances. – – Is there any thing in the M.S.S. that could be personally obnoxious to himself? – I am sure I do not remember – nor intended it. – – M’. Kinnaird & others had read them at Paris and noticed none such. – – – – If there were any – I can only say – that even that would not sanction the tone of his letter, which I showed to one or two <indifferent> English & Irish [friends of mine] here – here – who were perfectly astonished at the whole of it. – I do not allude to the opinions – (which may or may not be founded) but to the language – which seems studiously insulting – – You see Murray – what a scene you have superinduced – because the original sin seems to have been about this foolish bust, 293 – or I am convinced that he would have expressed his opinions less in the Election style. – – However I am more hurt than angry – for I cannot afford to lose an old friend for a fit of ill humour. y”. e[scrawl]

P.S. – Have you publicated the three plays in one volume – that will be the best way? – And I wish to know what you think about doing {with} the Miscellanies as I have formed no positive determination about them – the prose ones – I mean. – The “poeshie –” – you must publish, as heretofore decided – but whether with or without the prose I leave to your pleasure. – As Liston says that “is all hoptional you know”. 294 [scrawl]

Have you given the “Irish Avatar” to M’. Moore? – as I requested you to do? – You are a pretty fellow upon the whole for making a confusion. – – –

Byron to Murray, from Pisa, December 4th 1821:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43492; LJ V 486-8; QII 683-4; BLJ IX 74-5)
[To, John Murray Esqre / 50 Albemarle Street / London / Angleterre / Inghilterra]

Pisa. Dec 4th, 1821.

Dear Sir /

By extracts in the English papers in your holy Ally, Galignani’s messenger – I perceive that “the two greatest examples of human vanity – in the present age” are firstly – “the Ex=Emperor Napoleon” – and secondly, “his Lordship, &c.” [the noble poet’] meaning your humble Servant “poor guiltless I.”

Poor Napoleon! – he little dreamed to what “vile comparisons” the turn of the Wheel would reduce him! – I cannot help thinking however that had our learned brother of the Newspaper Office – seen my

290: One of B.’s few references to H.’s diary.
291: The Shelleys, the Williamses, and Trelawny.
292: Taaffe.
293: H.’s principal resentment is against B., for entrusting the Memoirs to Moore.
294: A standard joke of the comic actor John Liston when giving a tip on stage was to explain that it was “hoptional”.

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very moderate answer to the very scurrile epistle of my radical patron John Hobhouse M.P. – he would have thought the thermometer of my “Vanity” reduced to a very decent temperature. – By the way you do not happen to know whether M’. Fry had commenced her reform of the prisoners at the time when M’. Hobhouse was in Newgate? – – there are some of his phrases – and much of his style (in that same letter) which led me to suspect that either she had not – or that he had profited less than the others by her instructions. – Last week – I sent back the deed of [M’] Moore signed – and witnessed. – – It was inclosed to M’. Kinnaird with a request to forward it to you. – I have also transmitted to him my opinions upon your proposition &c. &c. – – but addressed them to himself. – – –
I have got here into a famous old feudal palazzo on the Arno – large enough for a garrison – with dungeons below – and cells in the walls – and so full of Ghosts that the learned Fletcher (my Valet) has begged [leave] to change his room – and then refused to occupy his new room – because there were more Ghosts there than in the other. – -<This> {It} is quite true; – that there are most extraordinary noises (as in all old buildings) which have terri=
1:2
1:3
1:4

P.S. Pray send me two or three dozen of “Acton’s Corn-rubbers” in a parcel by the post – : packed dry & well – if you can. – I have received safely the parcel containing the Seal, – the E. Review – and some pamphlets &c. the others are I presume upon their way. – – – Are there not designs for Faust? send me same – and a translation of it – if such there is– also of Goethe’s life if such there is – if not – the original German. – – – – –

Byron to Murray, from Pisa, December 10th 1821:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43492; BLJ IX 77)
[To, Jno. Murray Esq. / 50. Albemarle Street / London. / Angleterre. / Inghilterra.]

Byron may feel negative about Murray, but he still can send him a calm letter like this one.


Dear Sir / This day and this hour (one on the Clock) my daughter is six years old. – I wonder when I shall see her again or if ever I shall see her at all. – – –
I have remarked a curious coincidence which almost looks like a fatality. – – –
My mother – my wife – my daughter – my [half] sister – my sister’s mother – my natural daughter (as far at least as I am concerned) and myself are all only children. – – –
My father by his first marriage with Lady Conyers (an only child) had only my sister – and by his second marriage with another only child – an only child again. – – – –
Lady B. as you know was one also, – and so is my daughter &c. – – – Is not this rather odd – such a complication of only children? By the way – Send me my daughter Ada’s

295: The Casa Lanfranchi. B. did not know that Galileo’s birthplace can be seen from the rear.
296: Mu. sends B Retsch’s Twenty-Six Outlines, Illustrative of Goethe’s Tragedy of Faust, Engraved from the Originals by Henry Moses, and an Analysis of the Tragedy, an important subtext to The Deformed Transformed.
miniature. — I have only the print — which gives little or no idea of her complexion. — I heard the other day from an English voyager — that her temper is said to be extremely violent. — Is it so? — It is not unlikely considering her parentage. — My temper is what it is — as you may perhaps divine — and my Lady’s was a nice little sullen nucleus of concentrated Savageness to mould my daughter upon, — to say nothing of her (two) Grandmothers — both of whom to my knowledge were as pretty specimens of female Spirit — as you might wish to see on a Summer’s day.297 — — —

I have answered your letters — &c. — either [to you] in person — or through Mr. D[399]k[438]. — — —

The broken Seal — and Edinburgh R. &c[275]. arrived safely. — The others are I presume upon their way. —

298: The first volume of Taaffe’s translation of on commentary on the Divine Comedy. Mu. published it, but no more.
I write merely to say that I have returned by this post the proofs to Mr. Kinnaird — so that you may not be surprized at not receiving them — or suppose that I have not acknowledged their arrival. — In a post or two I shall send you a version of the extract from “Petrarch” as you wished — but you must not expect it to be good. I have not the turn for those things, — I also (as a piece of courtesy) inform you — if you have lately published more of mine than you seem to think convenient — it is probable that I shall not trouble you with the publication of these — but transfer them to some other publisher, — and I merely apprize you of this — because it may be proper after the length of the connection — not to terminate it abruptly without such advice of my intention — I am yours, very truly

It is probable that the new things will be published anonymously. —

**Byron to Murray, from Pisa, January 23rd 1822:**
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43493; LJ VI 8-9; BLJ IX 91)
[To, John Murray Esq. / 50. Albemarle Street. — / London. / Angleterre. / Inghilterra.]
Murray is now “Sir” without the “Dear”. The letter Byron answers is missing.


Sir,

I have just received the parcel — all right — and well. — But I am greatly surprized to see that you have omitted the dedication of “Sardanapalus” {to Goethe} which if any opportunity of replacing it occurs I desire may be done — and a copy forwarded to Goethe from the author. — — — — I sent you a heavy parcel by the post [Ms. tear: “yes”]terday & request that you will “app”ly to Mr. K. for payment of the postage of the same — as also for any books that you send me — that we may not incur long accounts

I am &c. y’s. truly

[scrawl]

[sid2, inverted below address:] There are some mistakes in the printing which I shall notice by and bye.

**Lady Noel dies on January 28th 1822. From now on Byron can style himself “Noel Byron”**.

**Byron to Murray, from Pisa, February 8th 1822:**
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43493; LJ VI 13-18; BLJ IX 103-4)
[To, John Murray Esq’ / 50. Albemarle Street. / London. / Angleterre. / Inghilterra.]
Another reply to another missing Murray letter.

Pisa. F’ 8th. 1822.

Dear Sir /

Attacks upon me were to be expected — but I perceive one upon you in the papers which I confess {that} I did not expect. — How — or in what manner you can be considered responsible for what I publish — I am at a loss to conceive. — — If “Cain” be “blasphemous” — Paradise lost is blasphemous — and the very words of the Oxford Gentleman — “Evil be thou my Good” are from that very poem — from the mouth of Satan, <> and is there anything more in that of Lucifer in the Mystery? — — Cain is nothing more than a drama — not a piece of argument — if Lucifer and Cain speak as the first Murderer and the first Rebel may be supposed to speak — surely all the rest of the personages talk also according to their characters — {and the stronger passions have ever been permitted to the drama. —} I have even avoided introducing the Deity — as in the Scriptures — (though Milton does and not very wisely either) but {have} adopted his Angel as sent to Cain instead — on purpose

1:2
to avoid shocking any feelings on the subject by falling short — of what all { uninspired} men must fall short in — viz — giving an adequate notion of the effect of the presence of Jehovah. — — The Old Mysteries introduced him liberally enough — and <what is> all this is avoided in the New one. — — The attempt to bully you — because they think it won’t succeed with me seems to me as atrocious an attempt as ever disgraced the times. — What? when Gibbon’s — Hume’s — Priestley’s and Drummond’s publishers have been allowed to rest in peace for seventy years — are you to be singled out for a work of
fiction not of history or argument? – there must be something at the bottom of this – some private enemy of your own – it is otherwise incredible. -- --

I can only say – “Me – me adsum qui feci”\textsuperscript{299} that {<I wish that>} any proceedings directed against you I beg may be transferred to me – who am willing & ought to endure them all – that if you

1:3

have lost money by the publication – I will refund – any – or all of the Copyright – that I desire you will say – that both you and M. Gifford remonstrated against the publication – as also M. Hobhouse – that I alone occasioned it – & I alone am the person who either legally or otherwise should bear the burthen. -- -- If they prosecute – I will come to England – that is, if by <m/>Meeting it in my own person – I can save yours. -- -- Let me know – you shan’t suffer for me – if I can help it. – Make any use of this letter which you please.

yrs. ever

Byron

P.S.

You will now perceive that it was as well for you – that I have decided upon changing my publisher – though that was not my motive – but dissatisfaction at

1:4

one or two things in your conduct – of no great moment <now> {perhaps even then;} But now – all such things disappear in my regret at having been <unwill> unintentionally the means of getting you into a scrape. -- -- Be assured that no momentary irritation (at real or supposed omissions – or commissions) shall ever prevent me from doing you justice where you deserve it – or {that I will} allow you (if I can avoid it) to participate in any odium or persecution – which ought to fall on me only. -- --

I had been laughing with some of my correspondents at the rumours &c. till I saw this assault upon you – and I should at that too – if I did not think that it may perhaps hurt your feelings or your business. -- --

When you re=publish (if you do so) the Foscari &c. &c., to the note <under> upon Southey – add M. Southey’s answer – (which was in the papers)\textsuperscript{300} this is but fair play, and – I do not {desire} it – out of an affected contempt. -- -- What my rejoinder to him will be is

2:1

another concern – and is not for publication. Let me have your answer – remember me to Gifford – & do not forget to state that both you and he objected to publishing “Cain” in it’s present form. -- --

As for what the Clergyman says of “Don Juan” you have brought it upon yourself by your absurd half and half prudery – which I always foresaw – would bother you at last. -- An author’s not putting his name – is nothing – it has been always the custom to publish a thousand anonymous things – but who ever heard before of a publisher’s affecting such a Masquerade {as yours was?} – However – now – you may print my name to the “Juans” if you like it – though it is of the latest to be of use to you. -- --

I always stated to you – that my only objection was in case of the law deciding against you – that they would annihilate my guardianship of the Child.

2:2 {above address;} But now (as you really seem in a damned scrape) they may do what they like {with me;} so that <they> {I can} get you out of it -- -- but – Cheer up – though I have “led my ragamuffins where they are well peppered”\textsuperscript{301} – I will stick by them as long as they {below address;} will keep the field. -- -- I write to you about all this row of bad passions – and absurdities – with the Summer Moon (for here our Winter is clearer than your Dog days) lighting the <lo> winding Arno with all her buildings and bridges – so quiet & still – what nothings <with> we are! before the least of these Stars! -- --

Byron to Murray, from Pisa, March 15th 1822:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43493; LJ VI 40-1; BLJ IX 125-6)

\textsuperscript{299}: Virgil, \textit{Aeneid} IX 427 (“Here am I who did the deed!”)
\textsuperscript{300}: See Southey to the Editor of \textit{The Courier}, January 5th 1822 (published January 11th 1822).
\textsuperscript{301}: Shakespeare; Falstaff at \textit{Henry IV} I V iii 36.
To John Murray Esq. / 50. Albemarle Street. / London. / Angleterre. / Inghilterra. 

The Murray letter which this answers is, again, missing. In it, he asks Byron for “a poem in the old way to interest the women” – which sums up his dilemma, for Byron is no longer writing them. Byron’s first letter to Murray with his new signature, of which one can see he’s very proud.


Dear Sir /

I am glad that you and your friends approve of my letter of the 8th. Ult. – you may give it what publicity you think proper in the circumstances. – I have since written to you twice or thrice. – – – Besides the M.S.S. you are aware of another in your own possession or M’. D. Kinnaird’s – there is a drama in five acts now in the care of M’. Moore which he will forward. – I think of publishing it & the new Mystery in one volume – the “Vision of Judgement” anonymously and secretly – as it will be pirated of course & remedy refused according to law and lawyers. – Also the Pulci in the same way. – The translation from Dante and the lines to the Po may be published with the Mystery and Tragedy. – For all or any of these it may be as well to

1:2

make no positive agreement till you can pronounce upon their success or otherwise after publication. – – As to “a poem in the old way to interest the women” – (as you call it;) I shall attempt of that kind nothing further. – I follow the bias of my own mind without considering whether women or men are or are not to be pleased. – But this is nothing to my publisher – who must judge and act according to popularity. – Therefore let the things take their chance – if they pay – you will pay me in proportion – and if they don’t – I must. The Noel affairs I hope will not take me to England – I have no desire to revisit that country – unless it be to keep you out of a prison – (if this can be effected by my taking your place) or perhaps

1:3

to get myself into one by exacting satisfaction from one or two persons who take advantage of my absence to abuse me. – – Further than this – I have no business nor connection with England nor desire to have, out of my own family & friends – to whom I wish all prosperity. Indeed I have lived upon the whole so little in England – (about five years [Ms. tear] I was one and twenty) that my habits are too continental, and your climate would please me as little as the Society. – I saw the Chancellor’s report in a French paper. – Pray why don’t they prosecute the translation of Lucretius or the original with it’s

“Primus in orbe Deos fecit Timor.”

or

“Tantum Religio potuit suadere Malorum.”

I have only seen one review of the book and

1:4 [above address:] that was in Galignani’s magazine quoted from the Monthly. – It was very favourable to the plays – as Compositions. – – – [below address:] You must really get something done for M’. Taaffe’s Commentary. – What can I say to him?

yrs. ever & truly

Noel Byron

On March 24th, Sergeant-Major Masi is pitchforked by one of Byron’s servants after he has provoked an affray at the city gate. Also injured are Shelley, a servant called Giuseppe Strauss, and John Hay.

Byron to Murray, from Pisa, March 31st 1822:
(Source: text from Leeds Brotherton, photocopy; LJ VI 45; BLJ IX 132)
[To. / J Murray Esqr / 50. Albemarle Street / London / Angleterre / Inghilterra]

302: The letter in which Mu. makes this request has not been found.
303: “It was fear which first created gods in the world” (Statius, Thebais, III 661).
304: “So strong was religion in urging [men] to do evil” (Lucretius, De Rerum Natura, I 101).
Dear Sir /

I have to acknowledge the receipt of several books &c., which I will acknowledge more at length shortly. – I am very much occupied at present with a squabble between some English <with> (myself for one) and some Soldiers of the Guard at the Gate <with> [and] a dragoon who wanted to arrest us. – Some have been wounded – the dragoon severely – but now recovering. – The matter is before the [British] Minister at Florence and of course I cannot send an ex parte statement – till I see what he says [further]. – His letter to me has been very handsome & obliging. – – – –

yrs ever & truly

N.B. –

Byron to Murray, from Pisa, April 9th 1822:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43493; LJ VI 47-8; BLJ IX 136-7)

[To, / John Murray Esq. / 50. Albemarle Street. / London. / Angleterre. / Inghilterra.]

Pisa. April 9th 1822.

Dear Sir /

The busts305 will be sent when completed. – They are already paid for &c. – Thank M’. D’Israeli for his book – and say that I shall write to him soon to acknowledge it’s [arrival] more particularly. – –

Also the same to M’. Luttrel. – – –

I believe the new Mystery is pious enough but if anything wants softening here & there send me an extract – but not a [Ms. tear: “proof”?] – as I have already corrected it carefully. – – Have you got “Werner” from M’. Moore? – Your best way to publish the “Quevedo redivivus” will be with some other bookseller’s name – or as a foreign edition – & in such a cheap form – that the pirates cannot undersell you. – M’. Douglas Kinnaird has the corrected proof in his hands, & will put it into yours upon your application to him.306 – – I wish you would de=

1:2 [over address:] =cide something about the publication of the Pulci &c. – – I do not mean terms but the time of publication. – – – My lawyers say that the Act of Parliament is not necessary for the name of Noel but I have written to them & to [below address:] my trustee M’. D. K. to get good advice thereanent. – I have had a newspaper letter sent to me – which asks “who molested you?” did you not say to me that they were prosecuting you? – Let me hear from you – yrs. truly – Noel Byron

Byron to Murray, from Pisa, April 13th 1822:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43493; LJ VI 48-9; BLJ IX 141-2)

[To, John Murray Esq. / 50. Albemarle Street. / London. / Angleterre. / Inghilterra.]

In the missing letter which this answers, Murray congratulates Byron on his new name.

Pisa. April 13th. 1822.

Dear Sir / Your congratulations on the Noel accession – are some what premature, as Lady B. is on a “Milk diet” – from which it may be – that there will be a greater flow of Milk than Honey (& of Gall from either) from this new “land of Promise”. – You might as well expect peace in the House of Atreus – as comfort – honour – or prosperity from [the Union between] those of Noel & Byron. M’. K2 writes that there has been an “excellent defence of “Cain” against Oxoniensis” you have sent me nothing but a not very excellent offence of the same poem. – If there be such “a defender of the Faith” – you may send me his thirty nine articles, – as a counterbalance to some of your late communications. – Are you to publish or not what Moore and M’. Kinnaird have in hand – and the Vision of [side 2, above address:] Quevedo? – If you publish the latter in a very cheap edition so as to baffle the pirates by a low price – you will find that it will do. – – – The “Mystery” I look upon as good – and “Werner” too – and I expect [below address:] that you will publish them speedily. – You need not put your name to Quevedo – but publish it as a foreign edition & let it take it’s chance – & make it’s way. – D. K. has it [still] with the preface – I believe. – – –

I refer you to him for documents on the late row here – I sent them a week ago. yrs. ever N. B. –

Murray to Byron, from 50 Albemarle Street London, April 16th 1822:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43497; LJM 435)

305: The busts of T.G. and B. by Bartolini (for B.’s, see Peach figs. 58 and 59).
306: Either Murray does not ask for the corrected proof, or Kinnaird does not furnish it, for The Vision of Judgement’s first edition is set up from an uncorrected one.
At last we are able to read Murray again in his own words.

London 16. April 1822

My Lord

I have been in daily expectation of being able to announce the arrival of Werner – but by a letter just received from Mr. Moore I find that he has been disappointed in his intention of returning to England & he has inclosed it in our Ambassadors dispatches so that every moment I may now expect to receive it.

I am glad to learn from the tone of our Florentine Ministers letter to your Lordship that your portion in the unlucky affray at Pisa appears to be very small – but I feel sufficient interest to wish to hear the story & to be prepared with the true statement in case a false one shall appear –

The division of Lord Wentworths property is indeed most liberal on your Lordships part, who has but a life interest in it.

We are all as dull here as possible, after 1:2

humbug Row about Cain – nothing having succeeded to it – & there has been no Lion even this season.

I inclose a Letter to you from Sir Walter Scott who is your Lordships fast friend

I remain My Lord

Your Lordships

faithful Servant

John Murray

[1:3 blank; 1:4 contains address.]

Byron to Murray, from Pisa, April 18th 1822:

Dear Sir /

I have received the defence of “Cain”. – Who is my Warburton? for he has done {for me} what the Bishop did for the poet against Crousaz. – His reply seems to me conclusive – and if you understood your own interest – you would print it together with the poem. – – –

It is very odd that I do not hear from you. – I have forwarded to Mr. D. the documents on a squabble here, which occurred about a month ago – the affair is still going on – but they made nothing of it hitherto. – I think what with home and abroad – there has been hot water enough for one while. – – –

Mr. Dawkins the English Minister has behaved in the handsomest and most gentlemanly manner throughout the whole business. –

yrs. ever & truly

N. B.

[side 2, above address:] P.S. Are you to publish or not? I wish you would let me have a positive answer before the Season wears out. – – –

I have directed you how to publish “the Vision of Quevedo &c.” in a small cheap form without your name. also the Pulci [below address:] with the text of the original. – The Mystery and “Werner” together in what form you please. – Don’t dawdle – but let me know. – I have got Lord Glenbervie’s book which is very amusing and able upon the topics which he touches upon – & part of the preface pathetic. [text curls up right-hand side:] Write soon.

On April 20th, Allegra dies in the convent at Bagnacavallo.

Byron to Murray, from Pisa, April 22nd 1822:

On April 20th, Allegra dies in the convent at Bagnacavallo.

Pisa. April 18th. 1822.

308: Warburton defended Pope in 1738-9 against an attack by Jean Pierre de Crousaz in 1737.
309: Previously B. has expressed his contempt for publishers who withhold their name.
310: Lord Glenbervie’s translation of the Ricciardetto of Forteguerri, just published by Mu. It praises TPoD.
Pisa. April 22d. 1822.

Dear Sir,

You will regret to hear that I have received intelligence of the death of my daughter Allegra of a fever in the Convent of Bagna Cavallo – where she was placed for the last year to commence her education. It is a heavy blow for many reasons, but must be borne, with time. – – – – –

It is my present intention to send her remains {to England} for sepulture in Harrow Church (where I once hoped to have laid my own) and this is my reason for troubling you with this notice – – I wish the funeral to be very private. – The body is embalmed, and in lead. – – It will be embarked from Leghorn. – Would you have any objection to give the proper directions on its’ arrival

I am yours, &c.

N. B.

P.S. – You are aware that protestants are not allowed holy ground in Catholic countries. – –

Early May 1822: Byron starts Don Juan Canto VII.

Byron to Murray, from Pisa, May 1st 1822:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43493; LJ VI 54; BLJ IX 151)

To, / John Murray Esqre. / 50. Albemarle Street / London / Angleterre / Inghilterra.

Pisa. May 1st. 1822.

Dear Sir,

I have received Sir Walter Scott’s letter enclosed in yours, – which I will answer shortly. –

Last week I wrote to apprize you of the death of my natural daughter Allegra. – – – – – –

Of the Pisan affray – the {chief} documents are in possession of M. D. K – and a further copy was sent to M. Hobhouse – both of which I trust have been received. I shall expect the proof of <the> “Werner”. – I desired you to obtain “the Mystery” from Mr. K also “the Vision” – and as I have already repeated to you my wishes on the subject – I expect that you will publish them as directed. –

Can you tell me the author of the defence of “Cain”? – If you understand your own interest – you will get it circulated as much as you can. – I am yours very truly

N.B.

Murray to Byron, from 50 Albemarle Street London, May 2nd 1822:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43497; LJM 437-8)

[To, Milord / Milord Byron / poste restante / Pisa / Italie]

Murray undertakes to publish Werner. It is the last work by Byron that he will publish.

London May 2. 1822

My Lord

I have received Werner & expect proofs of it in a post when they sh</ould>all be forwarded to you – Shall I print it in a plain form without the Authors name, to take its chance – Heaven & Earth may follow it – but just say no – & your Lordships former wish shall be fulfilled – Pulci &c shall be put into One Volume & published in November – for nothing whatsoever has made the least impression this <year> Season

<There is an article in the present N° of the> I was very glad to observe by the obviously official Statement in the papers that the affair at Pisa turns out very much to your own judgement & honour –

Yesterday the Dukes of Buckingham and Bedford fought a Duel in Kensington Gardens – Bedford fired in the Air – & they shook hands & parted friends –

I remain My Lord

Your faithful Servant

Jno Murray

[1:2 and 1:3 blank.]

Byron to Murray, from Pisa, May 4th 1822:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43493; LJ VI 60-1; BLJ IX 155-6)

[To, John Murray Esqre. / 50. Albemarle Street / London / Angleterre / Inghilterra.]

One sheet only.
Dear Sir/

I will thank you to be a little more expeditious in our publishing matters – and also a little more explicit – for you do not say whether you have gotten from Mr. D. K. the “Mystery” and “Vision” nor have made any reply – about the Pulci – which has now been two years in your hands and better. – –

The Mystery and Werner I mean to print in one volume – with the lines to the “Po” – and the translation of “Francesca” from “Dante”. – You by this time will have received “Werner”. – I recommend to you (when you re=publish) to append the defence of “Cain” to that poem. – Who is the author? – He must be a good natured fellow as well as a clever one.

Believe me yours truly

N B

Byron to Murray, from Pisa, May 17th 1822:

(Source: text from NLS Ms.43493; LJ VI 63-5; BLJ IX 159-60)
[To / John Murray Esqre. / 50. Albemarle Street / London / Angleterre / Inghilterra.]


Dear Sir,

Since I wrote to you yesterday I have received your letter – of the third, or second. – – As the Mystery is not in many pages – you had better add it to Werner – – and let them take their chance – I do not mean the Pulci – to be published in the same volume with “the Vision” – the latter of course

This seems an answer to Murray’s of May 2nd.

ought to be a separate publication. – As I take the risk upon myself – you will permit me to decide
upon the time of publication which must be sooner than what you say – for I care nothing about what
you call “the Season” – and merely wish to occupy my mind – – and the thing is an occupation – at
least an Idea. – If I had called

1:2

upon you for any specific terms – or pretended to any great expectations, you would then have a right
to decide upon the time &c. – but as I have done nothing of the kind – and will even abide by the loss –
if loss there be – you will permit me to arrange the publication according to my own will and pleasure.

I hear that the Edinburgh has attacked the three dramas – which is a bad business for you, and I don’t
wonder that it discourages you. – However, that volume may be trusted to Time – depend upon it – – I
read it over with some attention since it was published – and I think the time will come when it will be
preferred to my other writings – though not immediately. – – –

1:3

I say this without irritation against the Critics – or Criticism – whatever they may be – (for I have not
seen them) and nothing that has or may appear in Jeffrey’s review – can make me forget that he stood
by me for ten good years – – without any motive to do so (but) his own good will. – – –
I hear Moore is in town – remember me to him – & believe me

yrs. truly

N. B.

P.S.

If you think it necessary you may send me the Edinburgh – should there be any thing that
requires an answer – I will reply but temperately and technically – that is to say – merely with respect
to the principles of the Criticism – and not personally or offensively – as to its’ literary merits. – – –

Byron to Murray, from Montenero, May 26th 1822:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43493; LJ VI 69-75; QII 695-7; BLJ IX 163-5)

Byron orders Allegra’s burial. He tells Murray of his reception on board the U.S.S. Constitution,
and of his reputation in Germany.

Montenero, May 26th. 1822.

near Leghorn. – – –

Dear Sir,

The body is embarked – in what ship – I know not – neither could I enter into the details – but
the Countess G. G. has had the goodness to give the necessary orders to M’. Dunn – who superintends
the embarkation – and will write to you. – – –

I wish it to be buried in Harrow Church – there is a spot in the Churchyard near the footpath on the
brow of the hill looking towards Windsor – and a tomb under a large tree (bearing the name of Peachie
– or Peachey) where I used to sit for hours & hours when a boy – this was my favourite spot – but as I
wish to erect a tablet to her memory – the body had better be deposited in the Church. – Near the door
– on the left hand as you enter – there is a monument with a tablet

1:2

containing these words –

“When Sorrow weeps o’er Virtue’s sacred dust,
“Our tears become us, and our Grief is just,
“Such were the tears she shed, who grateful pays
“This last sad tribute of her love, and praise.”

I recollect them (after seventeen years) not from any thing remarkable in them – but because – from my
seat in the Gallery – I had generally my eyes turned towards that monument – – as near it as convenient
I could wish Allegra to be buried – and on the wall a marble tablet placed, with these words. –

In memory of

Allegra –
daughter of G. G. Lord Byron – who died at Bagnacavallo in Italy, April 20th, 1822. aged five years and three months. –

“I shall go to her, but she shall not return to me.”

2d, Samuel 12. – 23.

The funeral I wish to be as private as is consistent with decency – and I could hope that Henry Drury will perhaps read the service over her. – If he should decline it – it can be done by the usual Minister for the time being. – I do not know that I need add more just now. – – –

I will now turn to other subjects. <it> Since I came here I have been invited by the Americans on board of their Squadron where I was received with all the kindness {which} I could wish, and with more ceremony than I am fond of. – I found them finer ships than your own of the same class – well manned & officered. – A number of American gentlemen also were on board at the time {& some ladies.} – As I was <ftak> taking leave – an American lady 311 asked for a rose which I wore – for the purpose she said of sending to America something which I had about

me as a memorial. – I need not add that I felt the Compliment properly. – Captain Chauncey showed me an American and very pretty edition of my poems, and offered me a passage to the United States – if I would go there. – – Commodore Jones was also not less kind and attentive. – I have since received the enclosed letter desiring me to sit for my picture for <the> some Americans. – <This> {It} is a singular {that} in the same year that Lady Noel leaves by will an interdiction for my daughter to see her father’s portrait for many years – the individuals of a nation not remarkable for their liking to the English {in particular} – nor for flattering men in general, request me to sit for my “portraicture” – as Baron Bradwardine calls it. 312 – – I am also told of conside=

2d) =rable literary honours in Germany. – – Goëthe I am told is my professed patron and protector. – At Leipsic this year – the highest prize was proposed for a translation of two Cantos of Childe Harold.

– –

I am not sure that this was at Leipsic – but Mf. Bancroft was my authority – a good German Scholar (a young American) and an acquaintance of Goëthe’s. – –

Goëthe and the Germans are particularly fond of Don Juan – which they judge of as a work of Art. – –

I had heard something like this before {through} Baron Lutzerode. – The translations have been very frequent of several of the works – and Goëthe made a comparison between Faust and Manfred. – – –

All this is some compensation for

2:2

your English native brutality so fully displayed this year – (I mean not your individually) to its’ brightest extent. – I forgot to mention a little anecdote of a different kind – I went over the Constitution (the Commodore’s flag ship) and saw among other things worthy of remark a little boy born on board of her by a sailor’s wife. – They had christened him “Constitution Jones” – I of course approved the name – and the woman added – “Ah Sir – if he turns out but half as good as his name!”

yrs. ever & truly

N. B.

[2:3 and 2:4 blank.]

Byron to Murray, from Montenero, May 29th 1822:

(Source: text from NLS Ms.43493; LJ VI 75-6; BLJ IX 166-7)

[To John Murray Esqre. / 50. Albemarle Street / London / Angleterre / Inghilterra.]

311: Mrs Catherine Potter Stith.
312: Bradwardine never says this word in Scott’s Waverley.
The bifolium is folded on a “33 / 66” ratio, with everything except the address on one side, and the P.S. written vertically on the “33” part.

Montenero, near Leghorn.
May 29th. 1822

Dear Sir,

I return you the proofs revised. – Your printer has made one <queer> {odd} mistake “poor as a Mouse” instead of “poor as a Miser”313 the expression may seem strange – but it is only a translation of “Semper avarus eget”. 314 – – You will add the Mystery – and publish as soon as you can. – I care nothing for your “Season” nor <your> {the blue} approbations nor disapprobations. – All that is to be considered by you on the subject – is as a matter of business – and if I square that to your notions – (even to the running the risk entirely myself) you may permit me to choose my own time & mode of publication. – – With regard to the late volume – The present run against it or me – may impede it for a time – but it has the vital principle of permanency within it – as you may perhaps one day discover. – – I wrote to you on another subject a few days ago.

yrs. N. B.

P.S.

Please to send {me} the dedication of Sardanapalus to Goëthe – which you took upon you to omit – which omission I assure you I take very ill. – I shall prefix it to Werner – unless you prefer my putting another stating that the former had been omitted by the publisher. – – On the title page of the present <plac> volume – put ‘published for the Author by J. M.’” –

Byron to Murray, from Montenero, June 6th 1822:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43493; LJ VI 76-7; BLJ IX 167-8)
[To, John Murray Esqre. / 50. Albermarle Street. / London. / Angleterre / Inghilterra.]
Once again, the Murray letter is missing which Byron here answers.

Montenero, Leghron
June 6th. 1822.

Dear Sir,

I return you the revise of Werner and expect the rest. – With regard to the lines to the “Po” – perhaps you had better put them quietly in a second edition (if you reach one – <always> that is to say) than in the first – because though they have been reckoned fine – and I wish them to be preserved – I do not wish them to attract immediate observation – on account of the <xxxxxion> {relationship} of the Lady to whom they are addrest with the first families in Romagna and the Marches. – – – – – The defender of “Cain” – may or may not be as you term him – “a tyro in literature”; 315 however I think both you and I are under great obligation to him – but I suppose you won’t think so unless his defence serve as an advertisement. – I have read the Edinburgh R. in Galignani’s magazine – and have not yet decided whether to answer them or not –

1:2

for if I do – it will be difficult for me not to make sport for the Philistines by pulling down a house or two – <for> {since} when I once take pen in hand – I must say what comes uppermost – or fling it away – I have not the hypocrisy to pretend impartiality – nor the temper (as it is called) to keep always from saying what may not be pleasing to the hearer – or reader. – What do they mean by “elaborate” – why you know that they were written as fast as I could {put} pen to paper – and printed from the original M.S.S. & never revised but in the proofs – look at the dates and the M.S.S. themselves – whatever faults they have must spring from carelessness and not from labour – they said the same of “Lara” – which I wrote {while undressing} after coming home from balls and masquerades in the year of revelry 1814. yrs. ever N. B.

2:1

June 8th. 1822.

P.S.

Since the last was written I have sent you by my earliest and dearest friend – Lord Clare – a commonplace book316 – about half filled – which may serve partly hereafter – in aid of the Memoirs

313: Werner, II i 19.
314: Hor. Epi. I ii 56: the covetous is ever in want.
315: The letter in which Mu. uses this phrase has not been found.
316: Detached Thoughts.
purchased by you from M'. Moore – There are parts which have no reference to nor will answer your purpose, but some others may do perhaps. – You give me no explanation of your intention as to the “Vision – by Quevedo Redivivus” one of my best things. – Indeed you are altogether so abstruse and undecided lately – that I suppose you to mean me to write – “John Murray Esquire, a Mystery” a composition which would not displease the Clergy nor the trade. – I by no means wish you to do what you don't like but merely to say what you will do. The Vision

2:2

[above address:] must be published by some one. – As to Clamours – the die is cast – and “come one come all” – we will fight it out – at least one of us. – ——— [below address:] The difference between you and me is – that you are of every man’s opinion (especially the last man who talks to you) and I of no man’s. – Both extremes are bad – but we can’t establish a medium. – ———-———

June 28th 1822: Byron finishes Don Juan Canto VII.
Early July 1822: Byron starts Don Juan Canto VIII.

Byron to Murray, from Pisa, July 3rd 1822:
(Source: Ms. not found; text from LJ VI 92-3; BLJ IX 179)

Pisa, July 3d, 1822
Dear Sir, – I sent you the revise of Werner last week. As you thought proper to omit the dedication of Sardanapalus to Goethe, you will please to append it to Werner, making only the necessary alteration in the title of the work dedicated.

You will please also to deliver to the bearer, Mr. John Hunt, the Vision of Judgement by Quevedo Redivivus, with the preface – I mean the corrected copy of the proofs which you had from the Hon[ourable] Douglas Kinnaird.

Yours ever and truly,
NOEL BYRON

Byron to Murray, from Pisa, July 6th 1822:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43493; LJ VI 93-4; BLJ IX 181-2)

Another Murray letter is missing. Byron, starting to despair of Murray, has via Kinnaird given The Vision of Judgement to John Hunt, for The Liberal.

Dear Sir,

I return you the revise – I have softened the part to which Gifford objected – and changed the name of Michael to Raphael who was an Angel of gentler sympathies. – By the way recollect to alter – Michael to Raphael in the Scene itself [throughout] – for I have only had time to do so in the [list of the] Dramatis Personæ – {and} Scratch out all the pencil marks to avoid puzzling the printers. – I have given the “Vision of Quevedo Redivivus” to John Hunt – which will relieve you from a dilemma. – He must publish it at his own risk – as it is [softened] partly – and also the preface. –

yours ever
N. B.

[1:2 blank.]

Byron to Murray, from Pisa, July 8th 1822:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43493; LJ VI 94-5; BLJ IX 182-3)

[To, John Murray Esquire / 50. Albemarle Street / London / Angleterre / Inghilterra.]

Pisa. July 8th. 1822.
Dear Sir,

Last week I returned you the packet of proofs. – You had perhaps better not publish in the same volume – the Po – and Rimini translation. –

I have consigned a letter to M'. John Hunt for the “Vision of Judgement” – which you will hand over to him. – Also the Pulci – original and Italian – and any prose tracts of mine – for M'. Leigh Hunt

317: Shakespeare, Henry IV II, II iii 51-3.
318: In Heaven and Earth.
319: Mu. obeys B., but gives Hunt the wrong proof, Kinnaird having the corrected one.
<who> is arrived here & thinks of commencing a periodical work – to which I shall contribute – – I do not propose to you to be the publisher – because I know that you are unfriends – – but all things in your care except the volume now in the press – and the M.S.S. purchased of M’. Moore – can be given for

1:2

this purpose – according as they are wanted – and I expect that you will show fair <them> play – although with no very good will on your part. – –

With regard to what you say about your “want of memory” – I can only remark that you inserted the note to “Marino Faliero” – against my positive revocation and that you omitted the dedication of “Sardanapalus” to Goëthe (place it <now> before the volume now in the press) both of which were things not very agreeable to me & which I could wish to be avoided in future as they might be with a very little care – or a simple Memorandum in your pocket book. – It is not impossible that I may have three or four cantos of D. Juan ready by autumn or a little later – as I obtained

1:3

a permission from my Dictatress to continue it – provided always it was to be more guarded and decorous and sentimental in the continuation than in the commencement. – How far these Conditions have been fulfilled may be seen perhaps by and bye. But the Embargo was only taken off [Ms. tear: “upon”] these stipulations. – – You can answer at your leisure.

y°, ever

N. B.

On July 8th, Shelley, Edward Williams and Charles Vivian drown.

Early August 1822: Byron finishes Don Juan Canto VIII.

Byron to Murray, from Pisa, August 3rd 1822:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43493; LJ VI 98-9; BLJ IX 189-90)
[To, John Murray Esqre. / 50. Albemarle Street / London. / Angleterre / Inghilterra.]
Another missing Murray letter.


Dear Sir,

I have received your scrap – with H. D’s320 letter enclosed. – It is just like him – always kind and ready to oblige his old friends. – Will you have the goodness to send immediately to M’. Douglas Kinnaird – and inform him that I have not received the remittances due to me {from the funds} a month & more ago – & promised by him to be sent by every post – which omission is of great inconvenience to me – – and indeed inexcusable – as well as unintelligible. – As I have written to him repeatedly I suppose that his or my letters have miscarried. – I presume you have heard that M’. Shelley & Cap’. Williams were lost on the 7th Ult. <four> in their passage from Leghorn to Spezia in {an their}321 own open boat.

1:2

[above address:] You may <sup> imagine the state of their families – I never saw such a scene – nor wish to see such another. – [below address:] You are all brutally mistaken about Shelley who was without exception – the best and least selfish man I ever knew. – I never knew one who was not a beast in comparison. – –

y°, ever N. B.

August 8th 1822: Byron starts Don Juan Canto IX, and has finished it by September 6th.

Byron to Murray, from Pisa, September 11th 1822:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43493; LJ VI 112-13; BLJ 206-7)
[To, John Murray Esqre. / 50. Albemarle Street / London / Angleterre / Inghilterra.]


320: Henry Drury.
321: B writes “in their own” and then adds “an” without erasing “their own”.
Dear Sir,

I write a line to advise you that by the two last posts – I sent off to Mr. D K the four new Cantos of D. J. I hear by the way – that Rogue Southey says that he does not know what I meant by hinting that I had been kind to one of his connections. -- All I know is – that in 1815 M'r. Sotheby wrote to me saying that Coleridge was in great distress – & that the literary fund had given him 20 – or more pounds wishing me to help him – & that I immediately sent him one hundred <and> pounds – being at a time – when I could not command 150 – in the world – having (as you know) dunns & executions in my house daily & weekly. – I also recommended him to you as a publisher. – I have no wish to trumpet this – but if Rogue Southey denies it – I shall prove it to his face. –

1:2

[above address:]

I hear that he says his wife was not a milliner at Bath. 322 – Ask Luttrell – I have heard {M'r.} Nugent his friend say twenty times – that he knew both his & Coleridge’s Sara at Bath – before they {were} married & that they were Milliners – or Dressmaker’s

[below address:]

apprentices. – There is no harm if they were that I know – nor did I mean it as any.

yours. & c.

N. B.

Address to Genoa – ferma in posta.

Early September 1822: Byron starts Don Juan Canto X.

Byron to Murray, from Pisa, September 23rd 1822:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43493; LJ VI 116-18; BLJ IX 212-13)

[Tg John Murray Esqre. / 50. Albemarle Street. / London. / Angleterre / Inghilterra.]

Byron answers another Murray letter which is missing.

Pisa. Sept' 23rd. 1822. –

Address to me at Genoa

Dear Sir /

I have been in daily – but as usual – idle expectation of hearing from you before I went to Genoa. – In the mean time I have seen your brother. 323 – who – I must say – by no means loses in the comparison – I like him very much. The bust 324 does not turn out a very good one – though it may be like for aught I know – as it exactly resembles a superannuated Jesuit. – – I shall therefore not send it as I intended – but I will send you hers – which is much better – and you can get a copy from Thorwaldsen’s. – I assure you Bartolini’s is dreadful – though my mind misgives me that it is hideously like. If it is – I can not be long for this world – for it overlooks seventy. – – – –

If you can’t be civil to M'r. John Hunt – it means that you have ceased to be so to me – or mean to do so – I have thought as much for some time past – but you will find in the long run (though I hear that 1:2

[above address:] you go about talking of yourself like Dogberry “as a fellow that hath had losses”) 325 that you will not change for the better. – – – –

I am worth any “forty on fair ground” 326 of the wretched stilted pretenders and parsons of your advertisements. – By the way send me [below address:] a copy of the {M.S.S.} lines on Samuel 327 – which were sent some years ago. – I hear from M'r. Hobhouse that he hath said something which is like him – it is time to teach him – and if I take him in hand – I’ll show him what he has been these sixty years. Send me a copy of the lines. – yours. N. B.

322: See DJ III 93 8.
323: Archibald, Mu.’s half-brother – a sailor.
324: By Bartolini. Peach fig.58.
325: Shakespeare, Much Ado About Nothing, IV ii 82.
326: Shakespeare, Coriolanus, III i 242-3.
327: Question and Answer, the poem on Rogers.
Murray to Byron, from 50, Albemarle Street, London, September 25th 1822:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43497; LJM 442-4)

Murray answers Byron's of August 27th, 31st, and September 10th – none of which have been found. This is Murray’s most vivid letter. The description of his face-to-face encounter with John Hunt (recently in prison) signals the moment when his relationship with Byron ends.

Albemarle St
Sept’. 25th 1822

Dear Lord Byron

On my return from paying the last offices to Allegra I found your Letters of Aug. 27. 31 – & this day I have received a third dated Sep’t. 10.

I did, certainly, omit in the published Copies of Cain the lines quoted by your Lordship,\[328\] I could not venture to give them to the public, and I even hoped that when their omission should be discovered, <that> you would <be> feel surprise rather than dissatisfaction. I have so often and so publicly acknowledged my obligation for the fame and profit which I have gained by the publication of your writings, that your Lordship cannot <I> imagine that I am not sensible of the heavy sacrifice which I would make in losing so valuable a friend – and it is <to> this circumstance alone which has rendered my recent, (not as [you] I think, <you> unjustly call it “shuffling” & “timeserving” which would imply sinister motives, for it is obvious than I have none but a regard to your fame & my own character – but, I must allow,) indecision – for this there would have, I think, been no occasion were you still in this country for then you would have been more sensible to those public animadversions which at present fall upon me. If you are so kind <and so generous as> {so nobly generous} as to allow me the honour of continuing

1:2
to be the publisher of such of your writings as of your former glorious class – I shall feel more than ever grateful – But, I beg leave to repeat, that no adverse determination of yours can diminish – at any time – my sense of obligation to you, nor of the most sincere personal attachment – and as you have avowed that, when an occasion offered you did not find me mercenary or indisposed to practical gratitude I trust that our {mutual} feelings will be such as to leave the door open to a speedy renewal of the most delightful <interco> connexion which I ever formed in my life; – but if you should accede to my proposal it will really leave undestroyed a very considerable portion of my happiness.

With regard to my reception of M’ John Hunt whom I was not aware your Lordship had ever seen, he sent up word that “a Gentleman” wished to deliver into my own hands a Letter from Lord Byron, &; with instantaneous joy, I went down to receive him – there I found M’ Hunt & a person obviously brought there as a witness – He delivered the letter in the most Tipstave & formal manner to me staring me fully & closely in the face as if having <given a Cup> {administered a dose} of Arsenick he wished to see its minute sensations – & to all that I civilly & simply replied – with the same assassin look, he ever repeated “are these your words Sir – “is that your answer Sir” – “am I to write these words to Lord Byron” – in fact if you knew the insulting behaviour of this man\[329\] – you would I am sure excuse me for having directed my confidential Clerk

1:3
to tell him when he called again that he might be answered that whatever papers Lord Byron directed M’ Murray to send to him would be carefully, and as speedily as possible, delivered at his house – but that personal interview was not agreeable & could not be necessary. A friend of yours!!! My heart & soul all I have ever been with any & every friend of yours – After so long an interval it is not very

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328: Cain, I 161-6: But He! so wretched in his height, 
So restless in his wretchedness, must still 
Create, and re-create – perhaps he’ll make 
One day a Son unto himself – as he 
Gave you a father – and if he so doth, 
Mark me! that Son will be a Sacrifice.

329: Hunt had just spent time in jail, and probably associated Mu. with the establishment which had incarcerated him.
extraordinary that some of the Slips of Letter to Pope – Blackwood &c should have been mislaid – but this man can make no allowances but conceives that mystery, deceit or fraud can be the only [Ms. tear: “exc”]use – These have now been sent to him –

1  The Blues
2  Pulci – orig & Eng
3  Francesca
4  Hints from Horace
5  Part of Letter to Blackwood

— Yet wanting

I  Armenian Epistles
II  Lines on the Po (wch M’ Kinnaird has)
III  [remainder of] Letter to Blackwood

all these, I know I have, & my papers are undergoing diligent investigation to find them. 337 – The inclosed notice has just been put into circulation – the association which it unfolds, thus publicly – your friends will view with regret. I have received the very interesting Journal which your Lordship was so good as to send me by your most gentlemanly friend Lord Clair & it is deposited in the Iron Box containing all your other papers.

[1:4, inverted above address] I inclose <a> specimes of two Editions of Your Lordships Works which I am printing in the most beautiful manner that modern Art can effect – the best proof of my honouring your Writings – I have sent for the Don Juan 1:4, below address] I open the Letter to say that I called immediately upon M’ Kinnaird – he is in Paris – but I saw that all your Lordships packets had arrived safely – I entreat you to believe that I remain my Lord

Yours most sincerely & faithfully

John Murray

Byron moves to Genoa via Lerici, September 27th 1822, arriving at Casa Saluzzo, Albaro, on or about October 3rd.

October 5th 1822: Byron finishes Don Juan Canto X.

October 6th 1822: Byron starts Don Juan Canto XI.

Byron to Murray, from Genoa, October 9th 1822:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43493; LJ VI 120-6, with “Glyster” joke censored; BLJ X 12-13)

[To, John Murray Esqre. / 50. Albemarle Street / London / Angleterre / Inghilterra.]

Byron answers the previous item.

Genoa. Octr. 9th. 1822.

Dear Murray,

I have received your letter – and as you explain it – I have no objection on your account to omit those passages in the new Mystery – (which were marked in the half sheet sent the other day to Pisa) or the passage in Cain – but why not be open and say so at first – you should be more strait-forward on every account. – M’ K has four cantos of D. J. sent by {the} post – (or should have) – I have a fifth (the 10th.) finished {but not transcribed yet} – and the eleventh – begun. – – – With regard to Werner and H. & E. why are they not published? I should have thought the latitude I gave about terms – might have set you at ease on their account. – – – I have carried D. J. through a siege – to S. Petersburgh – &c. &c. thence to England – how do you like that? – I have no wish to break off {our} connection –

330: Published in The Liberal No.3, pp.1-21.
331: Published in The Liberal No.4, pp.123-249.
332: Not published in B.’s lifetime.
333: Not published in B.’s lifetime.
335: Not published in B.’s lifetime.
336: Not published in B.’s lifetime.
337: A dreadful comment on Mu.’s filing system.
338: Detached Thoughts.
but if you are to be blown about with every wind – what can I do? – You are wrong – for there will be a
reaction – you will see that by & bye – and whether there is or not – I cannot allow my opinions –
though I am ready to make any allowance in a trade point of view – which unpalatable speculations
may render necessary to your advantage. – – –
I have been very unwell – four days confined to my bed in “the worst inn’s worst room”339 at Lerici –
with a violent rheumatic and bilious attack – constipation – and the devil knows what – no physician –
except a young fellow who however was kind and cautious & that’s enough. – – Amongst other
operations – a Glyster was ordered – and

administered in such a manner by the performer – that I have ever since been wondering why the
legislature [should] punish Bishop Jocelyn and his Soldado?340 – since if the <Bi> episcopal
instrument at all resembled the damned squirt of the Ligurian apothecary – the crime will [have]
carried its’ own chastisement along with it. – – –
At last I seized Thompson’s book of prescriptions – (a donation of yours) and physicked myself with
the first dose I found in it – and after undergoing the ravages of all kinds of decoctions – sallied from
bed on the fifth day to cross the Gulph to Sestri. – The Sea revived me instantly – and I ate the Sailors
cold fish – and drank a Gallon of Country wine – and got to Genoa the same night after landing at
Sestri – and have ever since

been keeping well – but thinner – and with an occasional cough towards evening. – – –
With regard to Mr. J. Hunt how could I tell that he insulted you? of course if he did – show him the
door – or the window – he had no warrant from me but the letter you received – and I think that was
civil enough. – – I am afraid the Journal341 is a bad business – and won’t do – but in it I am sacrificing
myself for others – I can have no advantage in it. – I believe the brothers H. to be honest men – I am
sure that they are poor ones. – – They have not a rap – they pressed me to engage in this work – and in
an evil hour I consented – still I shall not repent if I can do them the least service. – I have done all I
can for Leigh Hunt – since he came here – but it is almost useless – his wife is ill – his {six} children
not very tractable and In the affairs of this world he himself

2:1

2.) is a child. – The death of Shelley left them totally aground – and I could not see them in such a state
without <wanting to> [using the] common feelings of humanity – & what means were in my power to
set them afloat again. – – –
So D. K² is out of the way? he was so the last time I sent him a parcel – and he gives no previous
notice – when is he expected again?
yr. N. B.

P.S.
Will you say at once – do you publish Werner & the mystery or not? – You never once allude to
them. – – That d – d advertisement of M’. J. Hunt is out of the limits I did not lend him my name to be
hawked about in this way. – – – – –

Murray to Byron, from 50 Albemarle Street London, October 11th 1822:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43497; LJM 449-50)
[Milord / Milord Byron / Poste Restante / Genoa / Italie]
Murray answers Byron’s of September 11th (probably) and 23rd.

Dear Lord Byron

339: Pope, Moral Essays, II 1.299.
341: The Liberal.
I wrote last week – since wch I have received two Short Letters from you – the last date is Sep. 23rd.

I entreat as a most particular favour that you will not place me in personal Intercourse With Mr John Hunt – for I have invincible reasons for not wishing to know him – As to my giving myself airs in the matter – I can assure you that no one can charge me with any alteration since I had first the good fortune of seeing you – and as to my going about talking of my losses – it is utterly destitute of all foundation – I always consider myself a most fortunate man – I have had to pay £16,000 for an insane brother-in-law it is true – but I am less hurt at the loss (for I can never hope to have One Pound of it repaid) than joyful that it was no greater – I beseech you not to set me down for such an incurable Blockhead as not to thing of you with every body around me as far superior as a Man of Genius to any man breathing – that that all the other work together which I publish as a matter of business – would keep in the balance of my mind – with yours – this is my opinion from the bottom of my heart & Soul – & do what you please nothing can eradicate this opinion nor any thing alter my firm devoted dutiful & respectfully affectionate friendship for your Lordship.

May I dash out Werner alone by the way Poems are always ten times more read when published separately –

I send you a Copy of the Lines – pray do not fire them off rashly – death must be the inevitable consequence you must be aware how honourably I have kept your secret.

Pray dont attend to what evil tongues tell you I will be sworn falsely of Mr Hobhouse & me – come over & see the truth –

Poor Godwin has been suddenly called upon for £400 – of Rent – wch would ruin him – Shelly would have paid it – there

is a Committee – of which I am one – for raising this Sum – I have given $100 – 10G3 – I dare say you will give your Lordships name for £25.

Poor Gifford was very nearly dead three days ago – he is now out of danger – he ever continues your firm admirer

There is a Review of Cain the next quarterly – wch I will inclose

I am & ever shall remain Dear Lord Byron
Your grateful & faithful
friend & Servant
John Murray

Every day of my life I sit opposite to your Lordships Portrait
– pray send me both Busts

[1:4 contains address only.]

October 17th 1822: Byron finishes Don Juan Canto XI.

Byron to Murray, from Genoa, October 22nd 1822:
(Source: text not yet seen at NLS Ms.43493; this text adapted from BLJ X 16)

Genoa. Oct. 22d. 1822

Sir, – You have delivered to M’ Hunt the Vision of Judgement – without the preface with which I had taken particular pains – & particularly desired you to forward to him – is this fair – is it honest? – is it proper to be thus remiss with papers committed to your charge – and in which you knew that I was interested? – You have also delivered to him some prose tracts incomplete – which you sent to me complete at the beginning of the year. – I have no wish to repeat what I have so often been obliged to say – and I leave you to your own reflection on the manner in which you have conducted yourself towards me in this matter. – I am y. obed’. Serv’.

NOEL BYRON

342: Mu. probably knows nothing about the Preface, which is in Kinnaird’s hands.
P.S. If you have (as seems apparently to be the case) purposely kept back the preface to the Vision – I can only say that I know no words strong enough to express my sense of such conduct – <and that you will be>

Byron to Murray, from Genoa, October 24th 1822:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43493: LJ VI 129-31; BLJ X 17-18)
[To, John Murray Esqre. / 50. Albemarle Street / London / Angleterre / Inghilterra.]
Byron accuses Murray (who is probably innocent) of deliberate neglect, and of being a government agent. He then receives Murray’s of October 11th, and becomes penitent – but sends the whole letter anyway. If his intention is malicious, he succeeds: see Murray’s answer, on November 5th.

Dear Sir,

After I had thought the subject at an end – I have been obliged by yesterday’s post to address a letter to you (through the care of Mr. J. Hunt) which will be unpleasant to you and is far from agreeable to me. – But contrary to my repeated & earnest request you have not forwarded to him the preface to Quevedo redivivus – on which I laid great stress – and now it has appeared without! – – Many of the other things sent are also incomplete – you forget that a publisher is as responsible for the M.S.S. of a writer – as a <fl> lawyer for his Client’s title deeds. – If you hold them back on purpose – it is a breach of trust & confidence – if you lose them by negligence – it is culpable negligence – and not to be excused on the plea of carelessness – who permits you thus to play with the feelings & reputation of a man who placed

1:2

confidence in you? – I must add that if the preface and other things are not forthcoming I shall be under the necessity of making your treatment of me in this respect public. – – You have also withheld the publication of Werner &c. why? – you can make no plea about terms – since none are settled – on that subject. – –

If you are offended with – or affronted by M’t J. Hunt – that is not a reason to juggle with me – and I will show you that I am not disposed to permit you to take advantage of my absence – in a manner – which whatever may be your motive – can do little credit to you – & less to your instigators – for I firmly believe that there is some one behind the curtain playing you off upon this occasion. –

1:3

I know enough of the baseness of M’t Southey – and his employers to believe them capable of any thing – – and as for yourself – though I am very unwilling to believe you acting wilfully & wittingly – as their tool – you leave me no other supposition but that either by menaces or persuasions they are rendering you an instrument – of their purposes personal and political, – “on fair ground I could beat forty of them”[343] but not if my Armourer proves treacherous – and spoils my weapons. – –

I am truly sorry to be obliged to address you in such a manner – but you have forced me to do so. – your obed’. S’.

N. B.

1:4

[The P.S. is written above and below the address, with the passage above cross-written over itself – a rare example of Byron using this economy.]

[above address, across the page:] [below address:] You must not separate Werner from the Oratorio H. & E. I have agreed to your omitting the{one} passage you objected to in the ultimate or penultimate

343: Shakespeare, Coriolanus, III i 242-3.
344: Mu.’s of the 11th of either September or October 1820 has not appeared.
chorus. – – You had better not send me the Quarterly on Cain – – as it can only be in the preaching
style – & may make me answer or say something disagreeable. – I have completed and had copied the 10th.
and 11th. Cantos of D. J. – making in all 6 new ones – already sent to Mf. Kinnaird which [vertically up left-hand side of page:] I hope have arrived safely – pray enquire and tell me if he is
returned or no. [above address, at right-angles to previous script:] I shall not assail Rogers if he lets
me alone – but it is a sad old fellow – I have lost the original copy – which made me send for this one –
of which I shall not make any use. – Put me down twenty five pounds for Godwin. – You shall have the
busts – also the picture of the Countess G – I hear that both are very like her & much admired – but
West’s picture of me for the New York Academy is preferred to Bartolini’s bust of me done at the
same time at the request of both artists – for I had resolved to sit no more for such vanities – – –

Murray to Byron, from 50, Albemarle Street, London, October 29th 1822:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43497; LJM 455-6)

Murray answers Byron’s of October 9th. In a very frank letter, he tells Byron how shameful his
association with The Liberal is regarded, and says he would never publish Don Juan as it is now
developing (especially, we think, Canto VI, set in the harem).
Murray has at last thrown caution to the winds.
Byron sends this letter to Kinnaird on November 18th. 

Dear Lord Byron

I was truly gratified by the favour of your kind letter from Genoa dated the 9th which reassures me
of that confidence which will enable me to write to you openly. Werner and the Myster<ie>y I can &
will publish – and immediately – for I observe the Announcement of “The Loves of the Angels” a
poem by Moore wch must be on the same subject as the Mystery – and because they will diminish (as
far at least as your Lordship is concerned,) the universal disappointment and condemnation which has
followed the publication of the first number of the “Liberal” – do not let others deceive you – I pled
ge my honour to the truth of what I tell you, that never since I have been a publisher did I ever observe
such a universal outcry as this work has occasioned & it is deemed to be no less dull than wickedly
intended – finding all this attributed to you & moreover that you were accused of mercenary motives –
I felt it a duty that I owed you to read that part of your Letter in which you communicate the

1:2

cause of & your motives for contributing to this work to every gentleman who is in the habit of visiting
at my house. The consequence of which has been the instant insertion of the inclosed paragraph by Mf
John Hunt in his Examiner of Sunday last.346 You see the result of being forced into contact with
wretches who take for granted that every one must be as infamous as themselves – really Lord Byron it
is dreadful to think upon your association with such outcasts from Society, it is impossible, I am sure,
that you can conceive any thing like the horrid sensation created in the mind of the public by this
connexion, unless you were here to feel it.

Mf Kinnaird sent me the 3 Cantos of Don Juan and with them, very ungenerously I think, your
angry Letter – <a> having read it – I returned the MSS unopened – I refrained from writing you
expecting to find by a subsequent letter that nothing but momentary irritation could have induced you
to have penned it But, though I did before, the Preface & many extracts from the Poem – and I declare
to you, these were so outrage

1:3

345: Peach fig.66.
346: Newspaper cutting enclosed: “THE LIBERAL. / In the First Number of this work, just published, there ought
to have been a Preface to the Vision of Judgment, which would have explained the full spirit of one or two
passages that may be misconstrued, and shewn more completely how Mr. Southey has subjected himself and his
cause to this sort of attack,—if indeed such evidence be wanting. The author was somewhat anxious on the former
point, lest he should be thought to bear harder than he wished on the late Sovereign. The latter, perhaps, may be
explained at once by quoting and applying to Mr. Southey the famous line about “fools rushing in where angels
fear to tread.” But the fact is, that for reasons best known to himself, Mr. Murray the bookseller, who was to have
been the original publisher of the Vision, contrived to evade sending the preface to the present publisher.”
347: In fact four cantos: VI, VII, VIII and IX. The “angry Letter” has not appeared.
ously shocking that I would not publish them – if you would give me your estate – Title – & Genius – For heavens sake revise them, they are equal in talent to any thing you have written, & it is therefore well worth while to extract what would shock the feeling of every man in the Country – & do your name everlasting injury.

My Company used to be courted for the pleasure of talking about you – it is totally the reverse now – & by a re-action, < y> even your former works are considerably deteriorated in Sale – It is impossible for you to have a more purely attached friend than I am, my name is connected with your fame – and I beseech you to take care of it – even for your Sister’s Sake for we are in constant alarm lest She should be deprived of her situation about the court – Do let us have your good humour again & put Juan in the tone of Beppo – Werner & the Mystery shall be published immediately. I entreat you to believe that nothing but the most devoted regard could have induced me to write this Letter & that I ever will remain

Your Lordships
devoted friend
Jno. Murray

[1:4 contains address only.]

**Byron to Murray, from Genoa, October 31st 1822 (a):**
(Source: not yet seen at NLS Ms.43493; BLJ X 21-2)

*Byron refers to a letter from Murray to Kinnaird which has yet to appear.*


Sir, – I have received a note addressed by you to Mr. Kinnaird – in which you complain of some letter of mine and talk of a “condition” what condition? I invoked none nor does Mr. Kinnaird. – If there is anything unjust in the letter it will be now easy to answer it – if on the other hand it is a new excuse – – I regret that you should have recourse to such expedients – which were unnecessary – – The best way to settle the matter at once will be to deliver into Mr. K.’s hands all compositions of mine now in your possession – and not referring to the Memoirs which you purchased of Mr. Moore – – I write also to ask you to replace them in an unmutilated state and not to send the Uncorrected copies – like that of the [Vision] which you dispatched in an incorrect state to Mr. J. Hunt Without the Preface – I should hope through negligence only. I remain

Your obed‘, Serv‘.

NOEL BYRON

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**Byron to Murray, from Genoa, October 31st 1822 (b):**
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43493; LJ VI 132-3; BLJ X 22-4)

Genoa. 8b. 31st. 1822.

I have received and answered through Mr. Kinnaird your enigma of a note to him – which riddle as expounded by Edipus – means nothing more than an evasion to get out of what you thought perhaps a bad business – either for fear of the Parsondom – or your Admiralty patrons – or your Quarterlyers – or some other exquisite reason348 – but why not be sincere & manly for once – and say so? – recollect – when I wished to put an end to the connection this year – it was at your own especial request to Messrs Moore and Hobhouse – that I agreed to renew it – since that period – what your conduct has been you know – and so do I; – the truth is that you never know your own mind –

1:2

and what between this opinion and that – and Sundry high & mighty notions of your {own} extreme importance in the planetary system – you <act> {act} like the philosopher in Rasselas who took the direction of the Winds under his auspices349 – take care – that one of them don’t blow you down some morning. –

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**Murray to Byron, from 50 Albemarle Street London, November 5th 1822:**
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43497; LJMJ 461)

[Milord / Milord Byron / poste restante / <Pisa/>Genoa / Italie // 1822 / J. Murray / Lord Byron / Nov‘. 5]

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349: Johnson, *Rasselas* Chap.VI.
Murray answers Byron’s of October 24th – and finally flips (as Byron may have intended that he should).

Albemarle St

<Oct> Nov. 5 – 1822

My Lord

I have received your Letter of the 24 Octr in reply to wch & to every other of the same kind I shall only reply that your suspicions are as groundless as they are unworthy of you.

I told you that some of the papers wch you wanted were mislaid but that they should be sent as soon as found – the preface I could not find the printer <I>could not find a Copy – but Mr Kinnaird had had copies of it & consequently there could have been no motive for my retaining it – Mr Kinnaird must have received his Copies of the Said Preface <t> 2 Monts ago!! I recollect that I gave him an order upon the printer to deliver everything – & consequently it was out of my Hands – the Lines on the Po were sent by you to Mr Kinnaird – I never had <your> the

[1:2: Mu.’s handwriting gets bigger] original of them. Apply for these then to Mr Kinnaird –

I declare upon my honour though I may have seen the Preface I never read it

Remember Mr Kinnaird has also both dedications <<to/>>of Werner> to Goethe

I am My Lord

y’ obed’. Serv’

John Murray

I have just found the MSS of the Letter to Blackwood & have sen it to Bond St. a Letter addressed

1:3
to me & marked on the Outside from Mr John Hunt – was received by me <this morning> {last night} & returned <to> unopened this morning – What it could be about I pretend not to guess – I will have no connexion with this Man

[1:4 contains address only.]

Byron to Murray, from Genoa, November 6th 1822:

(Source: NLS TD 3079 f.40; BLJ X 28)

[To, John Murray Esq’. / 50. Albemarle Street. / To y’s. care of the Honourable Douglas Kinnaird. – –]

1822.

Sir – I have been again informed by Mr. Hunt that you have not paid the smallest attention to my repeated letters. – Of this you will one day find the consequences. – You will be pleased to deliver into the hands of the Honble Douglas Kinnaird – (who takes charge of this note –) all M.S.S. or {printers’} proofs of mine whatsoever – and in their cor=

1:2

=rected state – not omitting Werner – & the other piece which was to have been published with it. – –

As a publisher I bid you a final farewell. – –

It would have been my wish to have remained on terms of acquaintance with you – but your recent – & repeatedly rude neglect of my earnest directions to you in <affairs> {matters} of business – render that

1:3

{also} impracticable. – I had believed you infirm in your purposes occasionally – and not very open in explaining your intentions – but I did not believe you capable of the conduct you are now holding – or at least have held up to my latest advices from England. – What that is – you may yet be told – by me – as well as {by} others. – You seem to forget that {whether as} a tradesman <and> {or as} a gentleman {you} are {ever} bound to be decent and
courteous in your intercourse with <others of> all classes – and I had hoped that the race of Curl and Osborne was extinct. Perhaps you wish that of Pope to revive also –

y'. obed'. S'.

N. B.

[Address follows, inverted.]

Murray to Byron, from 50 Albemarle Street London, November 8th 1822:
(Source: text from secretarial copy, NLS Ms.43497; LJM 465)
Murray’s last surviving letter to Byron.

London – 8th. Novemb' 1822

My Lord,

Since I last wrote – a letter (unsealed) from you! was flung on the floor of my shop. – I have now before me Mr. Kinnaird’s order upon the Printer for Copies of the Preface to the Vision dated Jany 14th. 1822 – He had taken the whole upon himself, by your order to get it published elsewhere, consequently the care of it was dismissed from my mind. – I enclose what the printer and I have been able to recover of the Letter to Blackwood which I naturally concluded to be of no use when the occasion of it was gone. – The verses to the Po – were not sent to me. –

I am

My Lord,
Your Obedient Servant

(signed –) John Murray

[1:2 blank.]

Byron to Murray, from Genoa, November 18th 1822:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43493; BLJ X 36)
Byron answers Murray’s of October 29th and November 5th. He severs all their connections.

Genoa. 9bre. 18th. 1822.

I have – since I received y'. letter of the 5th. received y'' of the 29. – which you had directed to Pisa. – It puts the affair in a different aspect – and at this distance I cannot take upon me to decide – though prima facie – your showing my letter – without permission – was to say the least of it indiscreet enough, – {though I should wish repelled the attribution of a mercenary motive.} With regard to the rest of your letter – I dare say that it is true – and that you mean well. – I never courted popularity – and cared little or nothing for the decrease or extinction thereof – As to any other motives – they will of course attribute motives of all kinds – but I shall not abandon a man like H. because he is unfortunate – why I could have no pecuniary motives {& least of all in connection with H. and} at any rate at present – for I have more money than is requisite

1:2

at least in this Country – and I should conceive that the terms – or rather no terms on which – Werner &c. were left with you – must laugh to scorn such a supposition. – – I care but little for the opinions of the English – as I have long had Europe and America for a Public {and were it otherwise I could bear it.} – – – My letters to you were written under the impression that you had acted unfairly by Hunt – and when that is cleared up – of course I have no complaint against you. – – – I shall withdraw from you as a publisher – on every account {even on your own} – and I wish you good luck {elsewhere} – but if you can make out that you treated H. fairly – you may reckon me in other respects – as y'''. very truly

N. B.

P.S. I send you my letter written previously to the receipt of yours from Pisa (direct to Genoa if you write again) if you do not deserve it – it is harsh – & would have been written more mildly had I got y'' of the 29th. before that of the 5th. – –

November 22nd 1822: Werner published by Murray.

Byron to Murray, from Genoa, November 23rd 1822:
I have to thank you for a parcel of books, which are very welcome, especially Sir Walter’s gift of *Halidon Hill*. You have sent me a copy of *Werner*, but without the preface: if you have published it *without*, you will have plunged me into a very disagreeable dilemma, because I shall be accused of plagiarism from Miss Lee’s German’s tale, whereas I have fully and freely acknowledged that the drama is entirely taken from the story.

I return you the *Quarterly Review*, uncut and unopened, not from disrespect or disregard or pique; but it is a kind of reading which I have some time disused, as I think the periodical style of writing hurtful to the habits of the mind, by presenting the superfluities of too many things at once. I do not know that it contains any thing disagreeable to me – it may or it may not; nor do I return it on account that there may be an article which you hinted at in one of your late letters; but because I have left off reading these kind of works, and should equally have returned you any other Number.

I am obliged to take in one or two abroad, because solicited to do so; but do not read them. The *Edinburgh* came before me by mere chance in Galignani’s pic–nic sort of Gazette, where he had inserted a part of it.

You will have received various letters from me lately, in a style which I used with reluctance; but you left me no other choice, by your obstinate refusal to communicate with a man you did not like, upon the mere simple matter of transfer of a few papers of little consequence (except to their author), and which could be of no moment to yourself.

I hope that Mr. K[innair]d is better: it is strange that you never alluded to his accident, if it be true, as stated in the papers.

I am yours, etc.,

NB

I have sent the parcel by the Diligence, to save you post, which would be heavy.

You have put the concluding speech of *Werner* in the mouth of Josephine, instead of that of Siegendorf, though I particularly recollect correcting it: is this repeated and doubly repeated negligence in printing my writings (recollect the *Juans* too), a sign of your pretended regard for my fame? They are so full of gross misprints, that a publisher might be ashamed of himself who allowed them to go forth in such a state. It is no fault of mine, for I most carefully corrected them: I shall be obliged to state this to the reader if you go on so.

December 2nd-17th 1822: Byron writes *The Age of Bronze*.

December 7th 1822: Byron finishes *Don Juan* Canto XII.

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**last two sheets of a letter from Byron to Murray, from Genoa, December 9th 1822:**

(From: text from NLS Ms.43493; QII 712-13; BLJ X 52)

[To, J. Murray Esq. / 50. Albemarle Street. / London / Angleterre / Inghilterra.]

*Byron goes on chatting as if nothing had happened.*

very willing to lighten any losses – “Go to” (thou art “a fellow that hath had losses” like Dogberry,350 – is it not so) which you may experience from my becoming obnoxious to the Blue people. – – – I hope that you have a milder winter than we have here – we have had inundations worthy of the Trent or Po – and the Conductor (Franklin’s) of my house was struck (or supposed to be stricken) by a thunder=bolt. – I was so near the window – that I was dazzled – & my eyes hurt for several minutes – and every body in the house felt an electric shock at the moment. – Madame Guiccioli was frightened – as you may suppose. – – I have thought since – that your bigots would have “saddled me with a Judgement” as Thwackum did Square when he bit 1:3

his tongue in talking Metaphysics351 – if anything had happened of consequence. – These fellows always forget Christ in their Christianity – and what he said when “the tower of Siloam fell”.352 Today is the 9th. – and the 10th. is my surviving daughter’s birthday – I have ordered as a regale a mutton chop and a bottle of Ale – she is seven years old I believe. – Did I ever tell you that the day I came of age – I

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dined on eggs and bacon and a bottle of ale; – for once in <my> way – they are my favourite dish & drinkable but as neither of them agree with me – I never use them but on great Jubilees once in four or five years or so. I see some booby represents the

2:1

2d.) Hunts and M. S as living in my house – it is a falsehood – they reside at some distance – and I do not see them twice in a Month. I have not met M. H. a dozen times – since I came to Genoa – or near it.

y” ever

N. B.

Byron to Murray, from Genoa, December 21st 1822:

(Source: text from B.L.Ashley 4750; LJ VI 1514; BLJ X 63-4)
[To, / John Murray Esqre / 50 Albemarle Street / London / Angleterre / Inghilterra]

Byron has seen Murray’s printing of Werner, and is furious all over again.

It was my hope that our concluding transaction should be an amicable one – and I wish that it may be so still. – But I perceive by some extracts in a paper – that you appear to have omitted contrary to my repeatedly urged requests – both the conclusion in the preface (written last Summer – and carefully sent to you) referring to the E. R. and also the inscription to Goethe. – If M. K had it – you knew where to find it – you also knew my desire – particularly as you had already omitted it from before Sardanapalus – for which I reproved you – and yet you seem to have repeated the same omission. – Is this courteous – is it even politic? – I repeat to you that no publisher has a right to be negligent upon such subjects. – Here was no person to bully you – nor Society to threa= 1:2

e ten you – that I know of. – And why omit the concluding part of the preface which was of great importance to me as giving a contradiction to a false statement of the labour employed on the composition of the preceding dramas. – I wrote to you lately also on another subject – that of the calumnies you have allowed to circulate in the papers on the subject of the funeral of Allegra. – You knew & know how desirous I was that the funeral might be private – and you also knew or might have known – that I had not the most distant idea that Lady B. was a frequenter of Harrow Church – and to say the truth – though I have no reason to believe her a woman of much feeling – I should have thought 1:3

it the last place – she should have frequented as every part of Harrow must have reminded her of one whom it had been better she should forget. – However had I known it – the infant would not have been buried there, nor would I myself (though it is the spot where I once and long wished to have [had] my ashes laid) now rest in my grave – if I thought this woman was to trample on it. – It is enough that she has partly dug it. – – –

I wrote to you some time ago on the subject of a poor woman (one of your writers) a Madame de Yossy – requesting you to apply to the literary fund for her – as she is in great distress. – I sent you her letter and address. – I have sent her three hundred francs – and I should 1:4

expect that amongst your acquaintance of the literary fund – something might be done for her; – I know nothing of her personally except from her letter. – I remain y. obedt. & very humble S’

N B

P.S.

If you see M. Moore I would request you to tell him that I wrote twice to Passy – about the time of his departure – if the letters seem worth it – he can have them forwarded from Paris – – – –

353: B. dined alone in London while Newstead celebrated his twenty-first birthday.
Replace at your best speed – the inscription to Goethe – and the addition to the preface – I also wish for my own satisfaction – for the correct and complete copy of the letter to the B M. – I sent it back <last> this year early in the winter – it was sent by you to me – and returned. –

2:1

2d.) Do not force me to do disagreeable things – but in case of your non=attention I must not only write to Goethe – but publish a statement of what has past between us on such subjects. – – – –

Why not tell me what we were or are the objections to the inscription over poor little Allegra? Was there anything wrong in it? Cunningham is known for a notorious hypocrite – I remember Lady B. telling me that she had heard of (from a Lady Olivial Sparrow –) or seen him – and that her Lady B’s belief – was that he made his devotion subservient to his views of [worldly] advancement. – He is the same Coward who wrote to me that he did not intend some poem or other called De Rancy for a description of my character. – I never cared whether he <had> {did} or not – but some review had frightened him – by hinting that he might as well have let me alone. – I merely answered his letter – (as I recollect at least) by a civil verbal message through Henry Drury. – The best answer to all these liars and slaves will be my letter to you on the subject of the interment – which contains also the inscription {epitaph}. – You can add – what is also true – from yourself – that I never was aware of Lady B’s residing at Harrow or frequenting its church.

Byron to Murray, from Genoa, December 25th 1822:
(Source: text from NLS Ms.43493; LJ VI 155-8; QII 715-18; BLJ X 67-70)
After this, Byron writes no more letters to Murray apart from one from Missolonghi.

I had sent you back “the Quarterly” without perusal – having resolved to read no more reviews good bad or indifferent – but “who can control his fate?” . “Galignani to whom my English studies are confined” has forwarded {a copy of} at least one half of it – in his indefatigable Catch=penny weekly compilation – and as “like Honour it came unlooked for” – I have looked through it. – – I must say that upon the whole – that is the whole of the half which I have read (for the other half is to be (the) Segment of Gal’s next week’s Circular) it is extremely handsome & any thing but unkind or unfair. – As I take the good in good part – I must not nor will not quarrel with the bad, – – what the Writer says of D. J. is harsh – but it is inevitable –

1:2

He must follow – or at least not directly oppose the opinion of a prevailing & yet not very firmly seated party – a review may and will direct or “turn away” the Currents of opinion – but it must not directly oppose them. – D. Juan will be known by and bye for a satire on abuses of the present states of Society – and not an eulogy of vice; – it may be now and then voluptuous – I can’t help that – Ariosto is worse – Smollett (see Lord Strutwell in vol 2d. of R. R) ten times worse – and Fielding no better. – – No Girl will ever be seduced by reading D. J. – no – no – she will go to Little’s poems – & Rousseau’s romans – for that – or even to the immaculate De Stael – – they will en=

1:3

courage her – & not the Don – who laughs at that – and – and – most other things. – But never mind “Çà ira!” – And now to a less agreeable topic, of which “pars magna es” – you Murray of Albemarle S’. – and the other Murray of Bridge Street – “Arcades Ambo” ; <et> (“Murrays both”) et cant=are pares – ye I say – between you are the Causes of the prosecution of John Hunt Esqr. on account of the Vision; – you by sending him an incorrect copy – and the other by his function. – – Egad – but <the>

354: Shakespeare, Macbeth V v 35 (adapted).
355: Shakespeare, Othello, V ii 268.
356: Henry IV I v 33 (final line).
357: Virgil, Aeneid II 5-6: ipse miserrima vidi, / et quorum pars magna fui.
H’s Counsel will lay it on you with a trowel–for your tergiversifying as to the M.S.S. &c. whereby poor H. (& for anything I know – myself – I am willing enough) is likely to be impounded. – – – 1:4

Now – do you see what you and your friends do by your in judicious rudeness? – actually cement a sort of connection which you strove to prevent – and which had <they> {the Hs} prospered – would not in all probability have continued. – As it is – I will not quit them in their adversity – though it should cost me – character – fame – money – and the usual et cetera. – My original motives – I already explained (in the letter which you thought proper to show –) they are the true ones and I abide by them – as I tell you – and I told Lh. H. when he questioned me on the subject of that letter – He was violently hurt – & never will forgive me at bottom – but I can’t help that; – I never meant to make a parade of <them> {it} – but if he chose to question me – I could only answer the plain truth – and I confess I did not see 2:1

2d.) anything in that letter to hurt him – unless I said he was “a bore” which I don’t remember. – Had their Journal gone on well – and I could have aided to make it better for them – I should then have left them after my safe piloting off a lee shore – to make a prosperous voyage by themselves. – As it is – I can’t & would not if I could – leave them amidst the breakers.359 – As to any community of feeling – thought – or opinion between L. H. – & me – there is little or none – we meet rarely – hardly ever – but I think him a good principled & able man – & must do as I would be done by. – I do not know what world he has lived in – but I have lived in three or four – and none of them like <their> {his} Keats and Kangaroo terra incognita &c. &c. &c. – Alas! poor Shelley! – how 2:2

he would have laughed – had he lived, and how we used to laugh now & then – at various things – which are grave in the Suburbs. – You are all mistaken about Shelley – you do not know – how mild – how tolerant – how good he was in Society – and as perfect a Gentleman as ever <walked> {crossed} a drawing room; – when he liked – & where he liked. – – – – – I have some thoughts of taking a run down to Naples – (solus – or at most – cum sâla) this Spring – and writing (when I have studied the Country) a fifth & sixth Canto of Ch’ Harolde – but this is merely an idea for the present – and I have other excursions – & voyages in my mind. – – – The busts are finished – are you worthy of them? – yrs. &c. N. B.

3:1

P.S.

Mrs. Sh is residing with the Hunts at some distance from me – I see them very seldom – – and generally on account of their business. – M. S I believe will go to England in the Spring. – – – Count Gamba’s family – the father – & Son – and daughter are residing with me – by M. Hill (the minister’s) recommendation as a safer asylum from the political persecutions than they could have <with> {in} another residence – but they occupy one part of a large house – and I the other – and our establishments are {quite} separate. – – – Since I have read the Q. – I shall erase two or three passages in the latter 6 or 7 Cantos in which I had lightly stroked over two or three of your authors – but I will not return evil for good. – I like what I read of the article much. –

3:2

[Above address:] M. J Hunt is most likely the publisher of the new Cantos – – with what prospects of success I know not – nor does it very much matter – as far as I am concerned – but I [below address:] hope [that] it may be of use to him – for he is a stiff sturdy conscientious man – and I like him – he is such a one – as Prynne – or Pym might be. I bear you no ill will for declining the D.Js – but I cannot commend y. conduct to the Hs. – Have you aided Madame de Yosy, as I requested? – I sent her 300

359: Yet one reason for the failure of The Liberal was B.’s refusal to publish The Island and AoB in it.
francs – recommend her will you – to the literary F. or to [vertically up right-hand side:] some benevolence within your Circles. –

1823: Lord and Lady Blessington, together with Count D’Orsay, visit Genoa, April 1st-June 2nd. Byron is elected a member of the London Greek Committee, and agrees to go to Greece to investigate the situation there and to help negotiate the Greek loan. He departs for Greece on July 16th, arriving in Cephalonia on August 3rd. On August 11th he visits Ithaca. He remains on Cephalonia until December 29th, when he sails for Messolonghi.


The professional relationship between Lord Byron and John Murray is over.

Byron to Murray, from Missolonghi, February 25th 1824:
(Source: text from BL.Ashley 4753; LJ VI 333-5; QII 764-5; BLJ XI 123-5)
[To, / John Murray Esqre. / 50 Albemarle Street / London / Angleterre / N B*

Byron’s last letter to Murray.

[[on cover:]] Zante 25 February 1824 Received from our Quarantine officer, resealed and [[seal: “directed”]] by Your very obedient Servant / Samuel Barff

[[addition sum:]] 9 . 9 / 3 . 10 / 13 . 17 / 2 . 2 / 2 . 15 . 7]

Messalonghi. – F. 25th, 1824.
I have heard from M. Douglas K² that you state “a report of a satire on M. Gifford having arrived from Italy – said to be written by me! – but that you do not believe it. –” I dare say you do not nor any body else I should think – whoever asserts that I am the author or abettor of anything of the kind on Gifford – lies in his throat. – I always regarded him as my literary father – and myself as his prodigal son; if any such composition exists it is none of mine – – you know as well as any body upon whom I have or have not written – and you also know whethe r they do or did not deserve that same – – and so much for such matters. – You will perhaps be anxious to hear some news from this part of Greece – (which is the most liable to invasion) but you will hear enough through public and private

1:2

channels on that head. – I will however give you the events of a week – mingling my own private peculiar with the public for we are here jumbled a little together at present. On Sunday (the 15th, I believe) I had a strong and sudden convulsive attack which left me speechless though not motionless – for some strong men could not hold me – but whether it was epilepsy catalepsy – cachexy – apoplexy – or what other exy – or opsy – the Doctors have not decided – or whether it was spasmodic or nervous & c. – but it was very unpleasant – and nearly carried me off – and all that – on Monday – they put leeches to my temples – no difficult matter – but the blood could not be stopped till eleven at night (they had gone too near the temporal Artery for my temporal safety) and neither Styptic nor Caustic would cautere the orifice till after a hundred attempts. – On Tuesday a

1:3

Turkish brig of war ran on shore – on Wednesday – great preparations being made to attack her though protected by her Consorts – the Turks burned her and retired to Patras – on thursday a quarrel ensued between the Suliotes and the Frank Guard at the Arsenal – – a Swedish Officer was killed – and a Suliote severely wounded – and a general fight expected – and with some difficulty prevented – on Friday the Officer buried – and Cap¹. Parry’s English Artificers mutinied under pretence that their lives were in danger and are for quitting the country – – they may. – On Saturday we had the smartest shock of an earthquake which I remember (and I have felt thirty slight or smart at different periods – they are common in the Mediterranean) and the whole army discharged their arms – upon

1:4

the same principle that savages beat drums {or howl} during an eclipse of the Moon – it was a rare Scene altogether – if you had but seen the English Johnnies – who had never been out of a Cockney
workshop before! or will again if they can help it – and on Sunday we heard that the Vizir is come down to Larissa with one hundred and odd thousand men. – – In coming here I had two escapes one from the Turks (one of my vessels was taken – but afterwards released) and the other from shipwreck – we drove twice on the rocks near the Scrophes – – (Islands near the Coast.) I have obtained from the Greeks the release of eight and twenty Turkish prisoners – men women and children – and sent them to Patras and Prevesa – at my own charges – one little Girl of nine years old – who prefers remaining

2:1

2d.) with me – I shall (if I live) send with her mother probably to Italy or to England – and adopt her. – Her name is Hato – or Hatageè – she is a very pretty lively child – all her brothers were killed by the Greeks – and she herself and her mother merely spared by special favour – and owing to her extreme youth – she was then but five or six years old. My health is now better and [Ms. tear: “T”] ride about again – my office here is no sinecure – so many parties – and difficulties of every kind – but I will do what I can – Prince Mavrocordato is an excellent person and does all in his power – but his situation is perplexing in the extreme – still we have great hopes of the success of the contest. – You will hear however more of public news from plenty of quarters – for I have little time to write – believe me

yrs. &c. &c.

N BN

Byron dies on April 19th, 1824.

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360: Shakespeare, Othello V ii 349.