

pleased me to afflict him.—I shall be in London on the 19th. there are to be oxen roasted and Sheep boiled on the 22d. with ale and Uproar for the Mobility, a feast is also providing for the tenantry, for my own part, I shall know as little of the matter as a Corpse of the Funeral solemnized in its honour.—A letter addressed to Reddish's will find me. I still intend publishing the Bards, but I have altered a good deal of the "Body of the Book," added & interpolated with some excisions, your lines still stand,⁴ and in all there will appear 624 lines.—I should like much to see your Essay upon Entrails, is there any honorary token of silver gilt? any Cups or pounds sterling attached to the prize, besides Glory? I expect to see you with a medal suspended from your Button hole, like a Croix de St. Louis.—Fletcher's father⁵ is deceased, and has left his son tway Cottages value ten pounds per annum, I know not how it is, but Fletch though only the 3d. Brother, conceives himself entitled to all the estates of the defunct, & I have recommended him to a Lawyer, who I fear will triumph in the spoils of this ancient family.—A Birthday Ode has been addressed to me by a country Schoolmaster,⁶ in which I am likened to the Sun, or Sol as he classically saith, the people of Newstead are compared to Laplanders, I am said to be a Baron and a Byron, the truth of which is indisputable, Feronia is again to reign, (she must have some woods to govern first) but it is altogether a very pleasant performance, & the author is as superior to Pye,⁷ as George Gordon to George Guelph. To be sure some of the lines are too short, but then to make amends, the Alexandrines have from fifteen to seventeen syllables, so we may call them Alexandrines the great.— — — I shall be glad to hear from you & beg you to believe me

Yours very truly
BYRON

[TO JOHN HANSON] *Newstead Abbey. Noths. January 17th. 1809*

My dear Sir,—I have left a Nottingham Silversmith's Bill for your examination, you will easily perceive several most enormous imposi-

⁴ Hobhouse's lines were those on William Lisle Bowles which Byron published as part of *English Bards and Scotch Reviewers* in the first edition (lines 246-62), but substituted some of his own when he published with his name on the title page in the second edition.

⁵ William Fletcher was Byron's valet.

⁶ See Feb. 15, 1809, to Mr. Mayfield.

⁷ Henry James Pye, Poet Laureate from 1790 to 1813, was a constant butt of contemporary ridicule. See Byron's lines on Pye in *English Bards and Scotch Reviewers* (lines 100-108), and in *The Vision of Judgment* (stanza 92).

tions in the prices, more particularly a charge of £17. 17s. 0 d.!!! for mounting a cup.—£3. 3s 0 d.!! for a Mustard pot and sundry other articles in the same proportion.—Surely the charges of these persons are not arbitrary, and I request your advice on this occasion, I will never pay the bill in its present state, and I doubt not your opinion will coincide with mine as to the enormity of the attempt to defraud.—In London the articles would have been finished for half the Sum.—I shall be at Reddish's in St. James St. where I shall be glad to see you at the time most convenient to yourself.—You will discharge my Cook, & Laundry Maid, the other two I shall retain to take care of the house, more especially as the youngest is pregnant (I need not tell you by whom) and I cannot have the girl on the parish.¹—I wish to have some conversation with you on the subject of raising the Newstead rents, which I hear may be done without distressing the tenantry.—I have put my establishment on board wages, except Joe,² who must live in Clover for the rest of his days, and I shall reside in town in lodgings, with only my valet, and perhaps a Groom.—Pray ascertain the road which we claim from Chaworth, and believe me

yours very sincerely
BYRON

P.S.—I wish you would see whether Mealey pays the workmen regularly. I have settled [with] him every month, I have been talking about rebuilding the hut, as I understand the [Papilwick?—sic] folks entered an opposition.
I am ever

[TO ROBERT CHARLES DALLAS] *Reddish's Hotel. St. James's Street. January 20th. 1809*

Ld Byron presents his Compts. to Mr. Dallas & would be glad if Mr. D. would favour him with a Call on Sunday morning.—

[TO ROBERT CHARLES DALLAS] *Reddish's Hotel, Jan. 25, 1809*

My dear Sir,—My only reason for not adopting your lines is because they are *your* lines. You will recollect what Lady Wortley

¹ Lucy (Byron called her Lucinda in his letter to Hobhouse of January 16, 1809) was the maid, whom Byron provided for with an annuity of £100, later reduced to £50 and the other £50 to go to the child. That she bore him a son is evidenced by a poem he wrote later, "To My Son": "I hail thee, dearest child of love...."

² Joe Murray.

Montague [sic] said to Pope: "No touching, for the good will be given to you, and the bad attributed to me." I am determined it shall be all my own, except such alterations as may be absolutely requisite; but I am much obliged by the trouble you have taken and your good opinion. The couplet on Lord C.¹ may be scratched out, and the following inserted:

Roscommon! Sheffield! with your spirits fled,
No future laurels deck a noble head;
Nor e'en a hackney'd muse will deign to smile
On minor Byron, or mature Carlisle.

This will answer the purpose of concealment. Now, for some couplets on Mr. Crabbe, which you may place after "Gifford, Sotheby, McNeil:"

There be who say in these enlightened days,
That splendid lies are all the poet's praise;
That strained invention, ever on the wing,
Alone impels the modern bard to sing,
'Tis true that all who rhyme, nay all who write,
Shrink from that fatal word to genius, trite:
Yet Truth sometimes will lend her noblest fires,
And decorate the verse herself inspires:
This fact in virtue's name let Crabbe attest;
Though nature's sternest painter, yet the best.

I am sorry to differ with you with regard to the title,² but I mean to retain it with this addition: "The <British> English Bards and Scotch Reviewers:"—and, if we call it a *Satire*, it will obviate the objection, as the bards also were Welch: Your title is too humorous,—and as I know a little of Dubois,³ I wish not to embroil myself with him, though I do not commend his treatment of * * *.

I shall be glad to hear from you, or see you, and beg you to believe me,

Yours, very sincerely,
BYRON

¹ Lord Carlisle.

² Dallas had suggested the title "The Parish Poor of Parnassus". (Dallas, *Correspondence*, I 29.)

³ The name, omitted by Dallas, is here supplied from a quotation in a nineteenth-century bookseller's catalogue of Byron's autograph letters. Edward Dubois (1774-1850), a wit and man of letters, was a contributor to the *Morning Chronicle* under the editor Perry. He was also the editor of the *Monthly Mirror*, which reviewed *Hours of Idleness* (January 1808, pp. 28-30) with light-hearted ridicule, and ended: "If this was one of his lordship's *school exercises* at Harrow, and he escaped whipping, they have there . . . an undue respect for lords' bottoms. . . ."

[TO JOHN HANSON]

Reddish's Hotel February 4th. 1809

Dear Sir,—I have been thinking of the alteration in my will, & you may *make* the heir at least succeed, but in the event of his demise without issue, the property must go to my Sister's children & the Trevanions, for no Branch of Richard's¹ shall inherit if I can prevent it.—Lucy's annuity may be reduced to fifty pounds, and the other fifty go to the Bastard.² All the rest may stand.—I remain yours very truly

BYRON

[TO ROBERT CHARLES DALLAS]

February 6th. 1809

Dear Sir,—I write to correct an orthographical mistake in the name of "Pillings" which ought to be spelt "*Pillans*".¹—I also wish much you would compare the manuscript and printed copy, for I am certain there must be nearly 650 lines in all instead of 604.—² Perhaps the error may be in the enumeration of the lines.—Believe me yours very truly

BYRON

[TO JOHN HANSON]

February seventh 1809

Dear Sir,—Do not part with your Barouch, because I believe I have found a purchaser, pray forward my business with the Chancellor.¹

Believe me yours truly
BYRON

¹ Richard Byron was a younger brother of Byron's grandfather, Admiral John Byron.

² See Jan. 17, 1809, to Hanson, note 1.

¹ James Pillans (1778-1864), Rector of the High School and Professor of Humanity in the University of Edinburgh, Byron referred to as "paltry Pillans", in *English Bards and Scotch Reviewers* (line 515), probably because he thought him the reviewer of Hodgson's *Translation of Juvenal* in the *Edinburgh Review*, April, 1808.

² There were 696 lines in the first edition of *English Bards and Scotch Reviewers*.

¹ John Scott, Lord Eldon, was Lord Chancellor when Byron took his seat in the House of Lords. Hanson was gathering affidavits to establish Byron's right to his seat.