

soon.—Pray name my nephew after his uncle, it must be a nephew (I *wont* have a *niece*) I will make him my *heir*, for I shall never marry, unless I am ruined, and then his *inheritance* would not be great. George will have the title and his *laurels*, my property (if any is left in five years time) I can leave to whom I please, and your son shall be the legatee.—Adieu

yours ever  
BYRON

[TO MRS. MASSINGBERD]

May 12th. 1808

I shall call with Mr. Davies and the rest at five to-day to finish the business.<sup>1</sup> I hope you and Miss M[assingberd] will be at home and disengaged.

B.

[TO WILLIAM HARNESSE]

London, June 4th. 1808

My dear Harness,—I have particularly to regret the late hour of my arrival on Thursday, which prevented me the pleasure I anticipated in hearing your *Lear*.<sup>1</sup> However I heard your *Fame*, & congratulate myself on the escape of my *Vanity*, which would have suffered severely, though the pleasure I must experience in any performance of yours would console me under the mortification of Self-Love. I was so unfortunate as not to meet you during the day, or to see you except at a distance in the Dancing Room, but on Monday I dine with H. Drury & take Harrow in my way to the Montem<sup>2</sup> of the Etonians on Tuesday.—I shall make my escape as soon as possible after Dinner, in the hope of seeing you, & in that expectation I shall only add at present how sincerely I am

yours affectly.  
BYRON

<sup>1</sup> The business was probably a loan which Mrs. Massingberd was arranging with the money-lenders, whether for Davies, or for Byron with Davies as co-signer is not known.

<sup>2</sup> Harness, as Byron did in 1805, was reciting a passage from *King Lear* for the Harrow Speech Day.

<sup>3</sup> The Montem was an annual spring festival at Eton. The scholars proceeded in fancy dress to "Salt Hill" where they collected money for the benefit of the senior going to King's College, Cambridge, as an Eton Scholar.

[TO HARGREAVES HANSON]

St. James Street, June 15th. 1808

Dear Hargreaves,—I leave town tomorrow, so if the Baron of Exchequer cant receive me before two, the Commission must be sent to Brighton<sup>1</sup> as I will wait no longer to please all the courts of Christendom.

yours,  
BYRON

[TO HEWSON CLARKE<sup>1</sup>]

Cambridge, July 3d. 1808

Sir,—Report universally attributes to your pen, passages in the Satirist of *this*, & *last* month alluding to me [in so?] marked & unjustifiable a manner, that I can no longer delay requiring an explanation.—I shall expect (if you are not the author) an immediate & unequivocal disavowal.—In case this proposal should not meet your approbation, my friend Mr. Hobhouse is instructed how to act.— I remain

your obedt. Servt.  
BYRON

[TO MRS. ELIZABETH MASSINGBERD]

Brighton July 20th 1808

Dear Madam,—I have parted with Miss Cameron,<sup>1</sup> & I beg she may have her Clothes & the trunk containing them

yours very truly  
BYRON

<sup>1</sup> Byron spent part of the summer of 1808 at Brighton with Hobhouse, Scrope Davies, and others.

<sup>2</sup> Hewson Clarke, a sizar of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, was editor of *The Satirist*. Since the first publication of *Hours of Idleness* he had been sniping at Byron in the pages of that periodical. In May, 1808, Clarke had printed quotations from some of the most caustic reviews of that volume which had appeared in the *Eclectic*, the *Monthly Mirror*, and the *Edinburgh Review*. When in June he followed this up with some taunting verses "Lord B——n to his Bear", Byron flared up and wrote the challenge in this letter. Whether Hobhouse persuaded him not to send it, or whether Byron himself thought better of it when he calmed down, there is no record of an encounter in person. Byron found his revenge in some lines in a second edition of *English Bards and Scotch Reviewers* (973–80), and in a postscript to that edition.

<sup>3</sup> The girl Byron had kept at Brompton, and whom he apparently took to Brighton with him. (See Marchand, *Byron: A Biography*. I, 151, 156.)