

[TO MR. MAYFIELD<sup>1</sup>]

*Reddish's Hotel, St. James's Street,  
February 15, 1809*

I wish to ascertain what progress your pupils have made since my departure, particularly Robert,<sup>2</sup> as I have some intention of sending for him in a few weeks. I have to return you my thanks for your verses and the subsequent *Birth-day Ode*, though I regret your *Muse* has not selected a better subject.

I remain, etc.

BYRON

[TO ROBERT CHARLES DALLAS]

*Feb. 16th, 1809*

Ecce iterum Crispinus!<sup>1</sup>—I send you some lines to be placed after "Gifford, Sotheby, M'Neil."<sup>2</sup> Pray call to-morrow any time before two, and believe me, &c.

B.

P.S.—Print soon or I shall overflow with more rhyme.

[TO ROBERT CHARLES DALLAS]

*February 19th. 1809*

My dear Sir,—I enclose some lines to be inserted (the first six.) after "Lords too are bards["] &c. or rather immediately following the line—

"Ah! who would take their titles for their rhymes"

the next four will wind up the panegyric on Lord Carlisle and come after "*tragic stuff*"<sup>1</sup>

Believe me yours truly

BYRON

<sup>1</sup> See January 16, 1809, to Hobhouse.

<sup>2</sup> Robert Rushon.

<sup>1</sup> Juvenal, *Satire IV*, line 1. Lo, Crispin again (I revert to the topic I have mentioned so often before). St. Crispin was the patron saint of cobblers, and Byron had invoked him in line 768 of *English Bards* in speaking of Blacket, the cobbler-poet.

<sup>2</sup> The line following begins: "Why slumbers Gifford?" (line 819).

<sup>1</sup> *English Bards* . . . , lines 736-40. The other lines were finally deleted (see *Poetry*, I, 355).

[TO ROBERT CHARLES DALLAS]

*Feb. 22d, 1809*

A cut at the opera.—Ecce signum! from last night's observation,<sup>1</sup> and inuendoes against the Society for the Suppression of Vice.<sup>2</sup> The lines will come well in after the couplets concerning Naldi and Catalani.<sup>3</sup>

Yours truly

BYRON

[TO JOHN HANSON]

*March 3d. 1809*

Dear Sir,—Send him off as soon as possible<sup>1</sup>

yours

BYRON

[TO MRS. CATHERINE GORDON BYRON]

*8 St. Ja's Street.  
Mch. 6th. 1809*

Dear Mother,—My last Letter was written under great depression of spirits from poor Falkland's death,<sup>1</sup> who has left without a shilling four children and his wife, I have been endeavouring to assist them, which God knows, I cannot do as I could wish from my own embarrassments & the many claims upon me from other quarters.—What you say is all very true, come what may! *Newstead* and I stand or fall together, I have now lived on the spot, I have fixed my heart upon it, and no pressure present or future, shall induce me to barter the last vestige of our inheritance; I have that Pride within me, which will

<sup>1</sup> Byron had apparently seen at the King's Theatre on February 21st, *I Villegiatori Rezzani* in which Naldi and Catalani were the principal singers. This was followed by d'Egville's musical extravaganza, *Don Quichotte, ou les Noces de Gamache*, with Deshayes in the *corps de ballet*. This prompted his attack on the opera and the musical stage in lines 608-31 of *English Bards*.

<sup>2</sup> Lines 631-37.

<sup>3</sup> Lines 612-15.

Byron was urging Hanson to send a clerk to Carhais in Cornwall for affidavits proving the marriage of his grandfather Admiral John Byron to Miss Sophia Trevanion in the private chapel there. Because of this delay, Byron did not take his seat in the House of Lords until March 13, 1809.

<sup>1</sup> Captain Charles John Cary, R.N., ninth Lord Falkland, married in 1808 Miss Anton, daughter of a West India merchant. He was killed in a duel after a drunken quarrel with a Mr. Powell. Byron had become friendly with him as a man about town and a tavern companion. Later he stood godfather to Falkland's posthumous child, and presented £500 to his widow, leaving it in a teacup to avoid embarrassment. (Moore, 1892, ed., p. 77n.)

enable me to support difficulties, I can endure privations, but could I obtain in exchange for Newstead Abbey the first fortune in the country, I would reject the proposition.—Set your mind at ease on that score. Mr. Hanson talks like a man of Business on the subject, I feel like a man of honour, and I will not sell Newstead.—I shall get my seat on the return of the affidavits from Carhais in Cornwall, and will do something in the house soon, I must dash, or it is all over.—My Satire must be kept secret for a month, after that you may say what you please on the subject.—Ld. Carlisle has used me so infamously & refused to state any particular of my family to the Chancellor, I have *lashed* him in my *rhymes*, and perhaps his Lordship may regret not being more conciliatory.<sup>2</sup> — — — They tell me it will have a sale, I hope so for the Bookseller has behaved well as far as publishing well goes.—

Believe me yours truly  
BYRON

P.S.—You shall have a mortgage on one of the *farms*.—<sup>3</sup>

[TO FRANCIS HODGSON]

8 St. James's Street March sixth 1809

Dear Hodgson,—“*Si vis, fac iterum*” I am very sorry to hear of your embarrassments, and if I can be of any service in any way command me, excuse haste I am just come from Harrow where I dined with Drury.

yours truly  
BYRON

P.S.—I send a draft as notes are *bulky*<sup>1</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Byron probably believed erroneously that Lord Carlisle withheld information that he might have given about Byron's ancestry which could have smoothed the way for his entry into the House of Lords.

<sup>3</sup> His mother had made herself liable for his debt of £1,000 borrowed from Wylde & Co., bankers, of Southwell, and the Misses Parkyns and his great aunt Mrs. George Byron. No mortgage was given, and Mrs. Byron died before the debt was repaid. Mrs. George Byron had contributed £500, Miss E. and F. Parkyns £300, and Wylde the banker £200. (Letter of Mrs. Byron to Hanson, March 15, 1809. Willis W. Pratt, *Byron at Southwell*, p. 106.)

<sup>1</sup> This was apparently the first of Byron's "loans" to Hodgson. Over the next few years he made several more loans intended as gifts and treated as such, usually when he was himself in great financial difficulty.

[TO WILLIAM HARNESS]

8 St. James's Street—March 18th. 1809

My dear Harness,—There was no necessity for all the excuses with which your letter teems, if you have time & inclination to write, "for what we receive the Lord make us thankful!" if I do not hear from you, I console myself with the idea that you are much more agreeably employed.—*I send down to you by this post a certain Satire lately published, and in return for three and sixpence expenditure upon it, only beg that if you should guess the author, you will keep his name secret, at least for the present.*—"Dear London" is full of this duke's business,<sup>1</sup> the commons have been at it these last three nights, and are not yet come to a decision, I do not know if the affair will be brought before our house, unless in the shape of an impeachment, if it makes it's appearance in a debatable form, I believe I shall be tempted to say something on the subject.—I am glad to hear you like Cambridge, firstly because to know that you are happy is pleasant to one who wishes you all possible sublimary enjoyment, and in the last place, I admire the novelty of the sentiment.—Alma Mater was to me "injusta Noverca" and the old Beldam only gave me my M. A. degree because she could not avoid it, you know what a farce a noble Cantab must perform.—<sup>2</sup> I am going abroad if possible in the spring, and before I depart, I am collecting the pictures of my most intimate Schoolfellows, I have already a few, and shall want yours or my cabinet will be incomplete.—I have employed one of the first miniature painters of the day to take them, of course at my own expense as I never allow my acquaintance to incur the least expenditure to gratify a whim of mine.—To mention this may seem indelicate, but when I tell you that a friend at first refused to sit, under the idea that he was to disburse on the occasion, you will see that it is necessary to state these preliminaries to prevent the recurrence of any similar mistake.— I shall see you in town and will carry you to the *Limner*,<sup>3</sup> it will be a tax on your patience for a week, but pray excuse it, as it is possible the resemblance may be the safe trace I shall be able to preserve of our past friendship & present acquaintance.—Just now it seems foolish enough, but in a few years when some of us are dust, and others are

<sup>1</sup> Col. Gwyllym Wardle had brought charges of accepting bribes for commissions against the Duke of York and his mistress, Mary Ann Clarke. The inquiry into the charges lasted from January 27 to March 20, 1809, and ended in the duke's resignation as commander-in-chief of the army. Wardle was later made famous by Dickens who brought him into *Pickwick Papers*.

<sup>2</sup> Byron took his M.A. degree at Cambridge on July 4, 1808.

<sup>3</sup> George Sanders, who painted several portraits and miniatures of Byron, and whom he had engaged to paint miniatures of several of his Harrow friends.