[TO MR. MAYFIELD]

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, 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 Birthday 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!—I send you some lines to be placed after “Gifford, Sotheby, M'Neil.” 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—

“Ahl! who would take their titles for their rhymes”

the next four will wind up the panegyric on Lord Carlisle and come after “tragic stuff”.

Believe me yours truly

BYRON

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1 Byron had apparently seen the King's Theatre on February 21st, I Vigilia
tori Rezzani in which Naldi and Catalani were the principal singers. This was
designed by d'Egville's musical extravagana, Don Quichotte, ou les Noe
de Gamache, with Deshayes in the corps de ballet. This prompted his attack on
the opera and the musical stage in lines 608-81 of English Bards.
2 Lines 614-57.
3 Lines 689-15.

1 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
Trevention in the private chapel there. Because of this delay, Byron did not take his
seat in the House of Lords until March 13, 1809.
2 Captain Charles John Cary, R.N., ninth Lord Falkland, married in 1803 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 trust to avoid embarrass-
ment. (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.—I.d. Carlisle has used me so infamous
& 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.————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.—

[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 com-
mand 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

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1 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.
2 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 £300, 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.)
3 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.

1 Col. Gwilym 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.
2 Byron took his M.A. degree at Cambridge on July 4, 1808.
3 George Sanders, who painted several portraits and miniatures of Byron, and
whom he had engaged to paint miniatures of several of his Harrow friends.