

exception—the *best* and least selfish man I ever knew.—I never knew one who was not a beast in comparison.—

yrs. ever  
N B

[TO THOMAS MOORE]  
Pisa, August 8th, 1822

You will have heard by this time that Shelley and another gentleman (Captain Williams) were drowned about a month ago (a *month* yesterday), in a squall off the Gulf of Spezia. There is thus another man gone, about whom the world was ill-naturedly, and ignorantly, and brutally mistaken. It will, perhaps, do him justice *now*, when he can be no better for it.

I have not seen the thing you mention,<sup>1</sup> and only heard of it casually, nor have I any desire. The price is, as I saw in some advertisement, fourteen shillings, which is too much to pay for a libel on oneself. Some one said in a letter, that it was a Dr. Watkins, who deals in the life and libel line. It must have diminished your natural pleasure, as a friend (vide Rochefoucault), to see yourself in it.<sup>2</sup>

With regard to the Blackwood fellows, I never published any thing against them;<sup>3</sup> nor, indeed, have seen their magazine (except in Galigiani's extracts) for these three years past. I once wrote, a good while ago, some remarks on their review of Don Juan, but saying very little about themselves, and these were *not* published.<sup>4</sup> If you think that I ought to follow your example (and I like to be in your company when I can) in contradicting their impudence, you may shape this declaration of mine into a similar paragraph for me. It is possible that you may have seen the little I *did* write (and never published) at Murray's:—it contained much more about Southey than about the Blacks.

If you think that I ought to do any thing about Watkins's book, I

<sup>1</sup> Moore had mentioned a new book, *Memoirs of the Life and Writings of the Right Honourable Lord Byron*. . . . It was anonymous, but the author was known to be John Watkins, author of a biographical dictionary and of biographies of Sheridan and Queen Charlotte.

<sup>2</sup> Watkins had mentioned the fact that Byron had attacked Moore in *English Bards and Scotch Reviewers* and then had written a profusely complimentary preface addressed to him for *The Corsair*.

<sup>3</sup> The preface to Vol. XI of *Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine* (Jan.-June, 1822) said that Byron "has written something about us—but whether a satire or an eulogy seems doubtful".

<sup>4</sup> This was Byron's "Some Observations upon an Article in Blackwood's Magazine", which was not published during his lifetime.

should not care much about publishing *my* *Memoir now*, should it be necessary to counteract the fellow. But, in *that* case, I should like to look over the *press* myself. Let me know what you think, or whether I had better *not*:—at least, not the second part, which touches on the actual confines of still existing matters.

I have written three more cantos of Don Juan, and am hovering on the brink of another (the ninth). The reason I want the stanzas again which I sent you is, that as these cantos contain a full detail (like the storm in Canto Second) of the siege and assault of Ismael, with much of sarcasm on those butchers in large business, your mercenary soldiery, it is a good opportunity of gracing the poem with \* \* \*. With these things and these fellows, it is necessary, in the present clash of philosophy and tyranny, to throw away the scabard. I know fit is against fearful odds; but the battle must be fought; and it will be eventually for the good of mankind, whatever it may be for the individual who risks himself.

What do you think of your Irish bishop's? Do you remember Swift's line, "Let me have a *barrack*—a fig for the *clergy*?"<sup>5</sup> This seems to have been his reverence's motto \* \* \* \* \*

\* \* \* \* \*  
Yours, etc.

[TO JOHN HANSON]  
Pisa August 10th. 1822

My dear Sir!—Will you have the goodness to apprise Mr. Kinnaird that I have not yet received any remittance from the funds now due several weeks—& which he promised punctually in his letters.—I suspect that his letter of Credit has either been lost—or intercepted which makes me very uneasy.—Please to do this immediately.—My respects to Charles and the family[.]

yrs. ever  
N B

P.S.—You have not written for some time.  
P.S.—You had better keep back the Rochdale Appeal till this Chancellor goes out.—*He* will never be fair in any cause in which I am interested.—

<sup>5</sup> The Hon. Percy Jocelyn, Bishop of Clogher, was deposed because of "a scandalous crime" involving a soldier named Moverly.

<sup>6</sup> The last line of Swift's "The Grand Question Debated".