

HENRY CRABB ROBINSON. FLORENCE
17. July 1830.

Florence 17th July 1830.

My dear friends -

Many thanks for your very kind & most acceptable joint & several letter - I must place you at the very head of my correspondents for promptitude in reply and for variety of information - I take an early opportunity of answering it, for tho' it has lain by me some time it is only two days since I consider myself as settled for two months, perhaps for three a long time this, for a traveller - To go on in order I must go back - I had a delightful tour in Sicily - Go run for the map or you won't understand me - There you see the northern coast between Palermo & Messina - Here are all the magnificent scenes of this most glorious island - Palermo invites every charm which mere nature can give - The five days journey a mule back to Trapania is over mountains, sea shore, & valleys of which the perfume is so strong that a lady with weak nerves w^{ld} be apprised after two days at M. we proceeded to Taormina what think you of a Keake so built that the back suns opening, the spectators could see Sicra - This real fire is better than the real water of Sudler's Wells - Then to Catania built amid masses of black lava - That I did not dare ascend - Richmond w^{ld} be rewarded with noble views - Then to Syracuse - An awful place - What think you? This city of two millions of men is shrunk into a mean town on a tongue of land - not a spot worth seeing by the Platonic eye but to the eye of memory how glorious - ! I was taken to a dirty eastern hov^{re}ty women were washing with their clothes tucked up themselves standing in the pool - A disgusting scene - What do you bring me here for? Why Sir; this is the fountain of Loethava !!! Oh those rascally poets again say I. Plato did right to banish the lyars from his republic - The day before I was in good humour with them for I saw the very rock that the Cyclops hurled at Ulysses - To be sure the cave is not there now but a importe - I saw the ear of Diomede - a silly story of modern invention but it is the finest quarry in the world and I brought away some Papyrus - I then catched my ride and in four days came to Gorgona I must refer you to some book of travels - enough for me to say - Had one day seen these marbles off set with a guide - The next, R and I separated and each alone spent six hours under the pillars of these ancient temples at least 3000 years old - In front the sea, behind a rich valley under mountains - This city had 14 temples - The ruins of two are mere rubble but capital; those of two others are composed of the columns entire - Then we went on to Elmunto - here lie 60 columns on the ground like so many sheaves of corn left by the reaper - An earthquake thrown them down - And then I saw Segesta Segesta alone in a wilderness - Astounding they did we see but wild foul - Then we went to Leone Chaving omitted to go to Trapalo & Massala which are not worth seeing)

you may accuse a friend by giving him this account - We were riding 13 days & never let more
than 3 or 4 miles. And we used 7 days on the way - I was besides a week at Ravenna -
all the stores about Ravenna are new fashions - when I think of the present times and except
on the hotel coast the accommodations are good. ~~but~~ ^{but} ~~not~~ ^{not} but a few days at Naples
on our return and returned to Rome. It had become a substitute to me - As an English
traveler scarcely to be seen - yet I had a few good friends and I was glad to read Italian
in quiet - Even R. left to see the gilded illuminations of Pisa - I used to worship the
Gesù domini - like priests for once when did he poor sister of the monogram
of St. John & Paul. Who would not like to come to see it? Rome on fire! With all my heart I desired
to see if the scarlet shoe were but burning within while - Still my friend - I do not differ
from you on his point so much as you imagine Mr. I beg to tell whenever the great fire is
made you will not allow me to feed the flame by throwing in the lawn deer to offer peace
of Canterbury - I would know in Ugo all of that most offensively perform my duty of London -
I could fill my paper with very safe sayings on Ugo but then you would be less in ignorance
there - So having seen the Girandola and the illuminated cupola of St. Peter I left Rome on
the 3rd instant & went to Lucca where R. has placed himself for a month or two - I had
better to leave that place in sight of the cool weather & pure air and have ventured
to set myself down in this beautiful city during the holidays - I do this for the sake of
my society - here is a Gabinetto letterario well supplied with day books & papers & review
and here I beg it to be known that at this time I may be heard of by any inquiring
friend or acquaintance - And I wish William to say this in London - I do think it would
be one of my best acquaintances to be coming this far at least - I know that you would
enjoy your French tour but you could easily be tempted to come even this far - but
Florence may very well be included on a summer tour in to Sardinia - I can hardly
recommend a man to follow Rolfe's example who in a summer vacation confined to
see Rome & Naples - (By the bye R. is a man Willing to know - I beg him to take an
opportunity of communicating with me directly to R. however of his prime favorites as
you know - This reminds me that in my former letters I never once mentioned by name
my excellent friend Manning - So William make up for this deficiency. Howard how you see
him - And recollect that I really authorize you to repeat all my former greetings as if
all were the same seen here repeated - To whom has from this long time
disposition - But I find I have nothing to return to - Ensign I am now domesticated in
an amiable family and beginning to talk Italian - I am also beginning to think of
returning - R. will attend his plans - He now means to spend his winter abroad
and come back to Surferland in the spring - I intend to leave Rome early in

And having seen the North of Italy either join R. in Surferland, or wait for him
at Rouen Leipzig or Frankfurt - And return with him thro' Holland to England In
that case I should take him with me to Bay by way of Harwich - ~~I shall hope~~ If I were
then to accompany him to London nothing would prevent my taking William on the way
but the duty of following him Cambridge - - And now let me endeavor to at least refer to
your letter - The death of St. Louis is the most prominent incident in it. It is the only
sort of death which we can contemplate with all but satisfaction - That of one who has
been a tried & tested follower of Jesus, and who has passed a life blameless before men - The real
moral worth of a man - Using that word with a single that would comprehend every thing
that is not purely physical or approaching to sin) is always a secret to his fellow men
we can but endeavor to hope & form presumptions in his poor work more or less confident
~~safely~~ ^{safely} reading therefore Burke's oration to the House of Commons the 1st of Decr. I almost love him for the
genuine boldness with which he delivered it - With such a he, where ever he be, may God be with him
Would you for instance say at all hesitate applying such language
to other of his admirable women with whom it has been
your happiness [and still is left me add] to have been connected?
Would not courage thy deed son for any bearing in on British
"crown" always appear to me a glorious saying -
Since you want to pick up a quarrel with me by publishing & late for granted
that I approved of the polish bill of WT grant which followed the emancipation bill, as on
the peak stage the comic parody always succeeded the tragedy - Had I been in the house
I should have inclined to oppose as the only reason for any negative vote that it would
raise the speakers cost every public day to ask of his Master Proprietary are we
have any petty pork to day? This sounds like a bad job, but in fact all the argument against
the WT bill is included in it - A distinct race of people small in number who will voluntarily
with the great mass of society associate with them under the arrogant pretence of being the chosen
people of God itself & whose authority among ~~the~~ ^{the} black cattle of mankind -
As Mr. J. in his letter speaks of our late King as good by the bye denounced to the world in
the U.S. service Nugget he is already equally imprinted with the goodness of K. William
But before I finish my catalog of praise I shall at least see whether the majority are to have
an inferior of liberty or rule by which I shall be guided - Travelling is a sad why-maker
I feel however little interest in the politics of England compared with those of France. What
at an exhibition shall we have when the deputies meet! It is a very unmeaning &
more inapplicable quotation I do ^{mean} not return ^{to} England

curious here. The King is said to have replied to one of his remonstrating friends - "It's fault
sauoir non a me! Pretty much what Jac. 2 felt when he sacrificed three Kingdoms for a mere
I open the French papers with only & interest - Again I thank you all for all the information you have
given me - And I have to request William whose position exposes him to the request that
he will make known in general but particularly to Mr. Collier and Mrs. Adlers that I am
to be at Bayeux some time and by him to write to me here - If W. would a great Chancery
practitioner I wo^rt recommend him the first before morning he has to send up his card to Mrs. H.
Warton Square - He will see a very elderly woman and bringing her news from me he wo^rt be
acceptable - I believe he knows Mr. Collier Pevalest near Islington (Abney Park) He is worth
calling on - I so wrote to me Bayeux But if he cannot do this he will speak to William C.

17 July 1830
H.C. Robinson
Florence.

"have seen me ever since I came - We were very poor for my books
He will always give you for Mr. Parker any letters which he may have
and for the rest work writing for the post - To allow postage to us
now friends my kind regards I tell him to tell his mother I have
seen her old friend Parker - Now in this man who has copy
of Julian de la Riva at his next friend - Kind regards also to
Dr. Humphries the Clergyman & Mr. Keck -
I have at 8^o.M. a stamp paper
This address, postage paid
and a small halfpence note
sent to his right

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to send a note to Adlers at Jamesons Count's house J-st. 27 Laurence Pountre Lane either Mrs. Adnor
was C. knows where to write to me I have now another comm^r to trouble William with, for which I do feel a
little ashamed - I met lately a Mr. Parker son whose son lives in Skinner St^t but I have lost the card - luckily the
street is short and if W. can find it I will thank him to ascertain in September whether Mr. P.
is coming to Rome this autumn - If he is - Then I will further trouble W. to buy for me a copy of Elegia which
Pratt can procure & bind and the same of Toleration Add to Pescia - And have his books before the
1st of Oct^r to leave at 35 P^r - he offered to take not more than 3 volumes for me - The parcel will not
be made light as Mr. P. is to open & read the books - He is a kindly man who knew me at the same
institution - I believe I have already said that I wish to W. to become acquainted with Dr. P.
could he not tell Bayeux who writes over to M^r of William - I wish him to know that