

Henry Crabb Robinson

Florence
14 June 1831

Support of the letter
in the 4th of London

Florence 14th June 1831.

My dear friends.

To Mr Patterson & his 2 sons.

I have to thank you for your prompt compliance with my request. On arriving here on the 24th Ult: I found your several letters to which I shall as usual send a joint answer - The objections that apply to your letter will be appropriated by each writer to his own portion - But first let me give an account of myself -

I have turned my face homeward - with the intention of winding my way slowly thro' the North of Italy and thro' either France or Switzerland & Germany - I requested Paynter to give notice to my friends in general that I should be glad to meet a companion home either at Milan or Geneva - but I did not send my notice in time - I have however a sort of prearrangement that before I quit entirely the Alps I shall meet some friendly companion - If not I shall at least I trust be gratified by another joint letter from you - I suspect you are with all other Englishmen so absorbed in the politics of the day and have been so for so long a time as to have been scarcely aware of the stimulating situation in which I have been placed - arising out of a state of uncertainty & expectation almost without a parallel - You have perhaps heard that the larger part of the Roman Papal subjects of the Pope renounced their allegiance and that government being utterly worn out subsisting only by the sufferance of the great Catholic powers and retaining the allegiance of the Capital merely by the subsistence it afforded to its idle population, seemed on the brink of dissolution - Rome was left without troops and the government without Revenue - For weeks we expected the enemy - Had he come there might have been a visit of the Fratescorini (a sort of Birmingham Church ^{King} & mob) who live beyond the Tiber - but there would have been no resistance - but in imbecility the insurgent government rebelled the Papal and as you perhaps have heard - the Italian Revolution was suppressed with even more ease than it was effected - The truth is that but for the intervention of Austria, the Italian government with the exception of Tuscany were ^{having} ~~were~~ ^{had} ~~been~~ ^{contrived} to render themselves so odious to the

