

Henry Crabb Robinson

Florence  
14 June 1831

Depart of this letter  
in H. C. to overland  
for  
to

Florence 14<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> ult. I found your several letter to which I shall as usual send a joint answer - The observations 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 me 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 presumption 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 afforded in the politics of the day and have been so for so long a time as to have been surely aware of the stimulating situation in which I have been placed - rising 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 power, and retaining the allegiance of the Capital merely by the subsistence it afforded to its sold population, reposed on the brink of desolation - Rome was left without troops and the government without Revenue - For weeks we expected the enemy - Glad he come there might have been a risk of the Trasteverini (A sort of Birmingham church & mob) who live beyond the Tiber - but there was no resistance - but in imbecility the innocent government ravaged the Papal and as you perhaps have heard - the Italian Revolution was supported with even more ease than it was effected - The truth is that but the intervention of Austria, the Italian government (with the exception of Tuscany) were <sup>having</sup> and continued to under them less & less submissions to the

Still there is uncertainty enough even in France to satisfy my affection - Germany &  
Austria are the only countries which present nothing but agreeable subjects for contemplation  
as Spain & Portugal do nothing but painful & disastrous objects - Finally in England - To have  
so uncertainty - so ground for alarm & apprehension here - I really think it fortunate for  
my reputation that I am out of the country - I should have lost my character had I said there  
I was always a moderate reformer and now that success seems at hand I think more of the  
danger than the privilege - I should never have been fit for a hustings rector - My gorge rises  
at the end of Shadley - And finding all the ribs for reform I began to suspect there must be  
some efforts unperceived evil in the measure - And it is only when I go among the anti-  
reformers and hear their worse cant & more odious impudence of the old story part  
that I am righted as the prophet is - And join the crowd again - I hope  
to hear that you all stand away from Celine's bid at the Pleas - I am afraid  
little follows that a cause must be bad which is supported by D. W. Harvey & L. Miller.  
When one is forced to act with such people  
but it is a sad danger on our country - Considering how few the reformers are, but still I cannot  
give credit to the recent converts for the present notice or the machinations within. And since an  
English right is respectable compared with a mercenary ~~the~~ horn coat, the pro-  
longations are in favor  
of those who having been anti-reformers under G. B. remain so under W. &. I do not by any  
means wish my friends W. D. & J. R. Kinkaid the present a heart-sickening  
spectacle - on the  
contrary, I see enough to inspire me with hope, tho' I see at the same time much to trouble  
at & not a little to excite ones anxious apprehensions - I have great difficulty in  
believing that man honest who denies that a reform was wanted, but I think him not  
wise who sees nothing to apprehend from such a body of Commons as the new act would  
produce - The weakness of the Anti-reformers is their utter <sup>ignorance</sup> ~~ignorance~~ <sup>principle</sup> ~~principle~~  
elective franchise is a right to a parent - That of the reformers is the presumption that no  
populi vadet - Ralph Burke's principle and would not frame agreement to any  
other principle the rule than expediency, but that expediency requires a ~~rule~~  
machise equally removed from rotten boroughs - And an elective qualification  
borrowed from the law settlement - I have been too many years occupied in

investigating - Pauper or no Pauper? to think it at all desirable that that class of workmen  
should chase the legislators of the land - I shall however I would rather the bill should pass  
than that the present corrupt system should continue but I hope upright & good men will  
and allow the qualification to be raised to £20 or at least £15  
declaration that the Assembly will consent to be beaten on this point - And now I think  
I have proved myself unfit to be among you I should have been fit, if not feathered, turned  
or topped in a blanket, at least hopped out of all the election committee rooms of England -

17<sup>th</sup> I have left my letter unfinished for several days expect to be able to say what course  
I shall take, but I cannot at present - I shall therefore take some other means of letting you

Florence  
14 June 1831.

H. C. Robinson Esq

I am going to remain on an account among the Opponents  
wholly satisfied on my return by news and enquiries  
what gratified me on my return from Palermo in a lug coffee  
My kind love to you all - Affectionately - H. C. Robinson  
W. F. will  
I have so  
written for  
you  
the  
opposite  
who  
the  
impartial  
I  
will  
remember me to Regius  
often name type - Among whom he  
get to include Manning & Tyndall  
D. in among the various reformers - I  
to know what part any of them  
grows, but in particular

prolong  
yours  
H. C. Robinson

3rd August 1831

H. C. Robinson

know where I may to receive my last letter from you - Yesterday I read in the papers  
The awful intelligence Pope Irving expelled the Ch: of Christ by an Ecumenical Council at Edinb:  
& unanimously too!!! I have tried to find out wherein the heresy lies in which he is excommunicated  
but his doctrine seems to be an obvious result from the orthodox notions concerning the union of the two  
human natures in Christ's person - But he will not think my voice in his favour, worth having -  
I think however his doctrine as well as the opposite, an idle & impertinent investigation into  
matters beyond our ken & never intended to be made hence for curious enquiry - has recollect  
at Pandemonium such disfavors were the blemishments of the Emigrants, & banished  
protests - The first Jacobins on record as well as the first Metaphysicians!!! Seriously speaking  
the vanity of schoolmen has made sad inroads within the sphere of real, that is practical religion