

Capt Basil Hall.

Cishykeel, Galashields.

22nd Nov. 1837

My dear Smythe

I believe it would be a useful & pleasant rule for friends to make to write notes to one another instead of letters. At all events if there had been any such rule between you & me I should have written to you half a dozen times during the last interval. I don't know its duration - since we interchanged some communications. But I had always the operation of a letter in my eye, & for that I never, as it seems, had sufficient energies.

Your note of the 10th reached me 10 minutes ago, & I saved myself of the few minutes which are still to elapse between dapping & dinner, to say a word or two in reply.

Thanks for your pamphlet about Daupier. I have, however, already carefully read & studied every word of it in the U. S. Journal & was greatly interested & instructed by the perusal. You probably did not recollect, or did not know that I had taken especial pains to record my opinion of the said worthy. I really do not remember in which of my books the passage is though I think it is in a work I wrote in S^o America. It relates to the land & sea breezes

if I quote his words - are exceedingly eloquent
& more descriptive of the phenomenon than
anything that ever read: and that some
one's phrase who calls him the Prince of
Voyagers. I should ^{certainly} not have mentioned
his circumstances at all, had you not
talked of expanding your volume in a
fresh Edition. In which event perhaps
you might think it worth while to do
me the honor - for I really should feel
it such - to add my hearty testimony to
those ^{voyagers} you quote who are proud to
pay their homage to this wonderful
fellow. - The first time I can get hold
of a copy of any of your own productions
I will try to hunt up the passage to
save you the botheration

PS. 25th Nov 1837 - Since writing the above
I have lighted on a copy of my book in
S^o. America - & at page 178 of Vol II I
find the passage alluded to about
Dampier, which is followed by a

long extract from his admirable "Discourse
of the Trade Winds, Tides, Storms, Seasons
of the year, Tides & Currents of the South
Sea, throughout the World - London 1689"
- a delicious book. - It strikes me, by
the way, that when you come to
expand your notice of Dampier, you
might with great advantage give us
a sort of Catalogue Raisonné of all
his works - with copious extracts. He
is a beautiful writer - & I think you
might make a very interesting &
useful book out of this subject - for
I don't know any fellow who would
cut up better than weasted Dampier.
and I have just laid my hands on the
11th Vol of the 2nd Series of my Fragments
where I find, at page 200, at the end of
an Essay on the Trade Winds a most
amorphous allusion to Old Dampier which
I should be very happy to see preserved

in your sketch of this great man.

I enclose a letter from my daughter
Eliza to your daughter Henrietta.
And as I know & esteem Col. Wally
very much, & have very long known
& esteemed his wife, I enclose you
a line to him. Do not fear that
his health has suffered of late years
— but he used to be a very good
fellow — & I should think he would prove
an acquisition to your Society.

Have you seen De Fonzy's Book on
Naval Routine? I don't know him
personally — but I have heard much about
him — & I think the book well calculated
to aid & assist Officers who, like myself
have got rusty. — When ^{you} you have leisure
I shall always be most sincerely happy
to hear from you about anything. With best
regards to Mr. Smith & your whole party,
I am, Sir, your most obedient Servant,
Wm. Hall

920
F. L. Planchon

Ashetiel, Galashiels.
22nd Novr 1837

My dear Smythe

I believe it would be a useful & pleasant rule for friends to make to write notes to one another, instead of Letters. At all events if there had been any such rule between you & me I should have written to you half a dozen times during the last interval - I don't know its duration since we interchanged intercommunications. But I had always the opera operation of a letter in my eye, & for that I never, as it seems, had sufficient energies.

Your note of the 10th reached me 10 minutes ago, & I avail myself of the few minutes which are still to elapse between dressing & dinner, to say a word or two in reply. Thanks for your pamphlet about Dampier. I have, however, already carefully read & studied every word of it in the U. S. Journal & was greatly interested & instructed by the perusal. You probably did not recollect, or did not know that I had taken especial pains to record my opinion of the said worthy. I really do not remember in which of my books the passage is, though I think it is in a work I wrote on So America. It relates to the land & sea voyages & I quote his words - are exceedingly eloquent & more descriptive of the phenomenon than anything I had ever read; & I steal some one's phrase who calls him the Prince of Voyagers. I should certainly not have mentioned this circumstance at all, had you not talked of expanding your notice in a fresh Edition. In which event perhaps you might think it worth while to do me the honor - for I really should feel it such - to add very hearty testimony to those voyagers you quote who are proud to pay their homage to this wonderful fellow. The first time I can get hold of a copy of any of my own productions I will try to hunt up the passage to save you the botheration.

P.S. 25th Novr 1837 - Since writing the above I have lighted on a copy of my book on So America & at page 178 of Vol II I find the passage alluded to about Dampier, which is followed by a long extract from his admirable "Discourses of the Trade Winds, Breezes, Storms, Seasons of the Year, Tides & Currents of the Torrid Zone, throughout the World - London 1699 - a delicious book. It strikes me, by the way, that when you come to expand your notice of Dampier you might with great advantage, give us a sort of Catalogue Raisonnee of all his works - with copious extracts. He is a beautiful writer & I think you might make an interesting & very useful book out of this subject - for I don't know any fellow who would cut better than Master Dampier.

2nd P.S. I have just laid my hands on the 1st Vol of the 2nd Series of my Fragments where I find at page 208, at the end of an Essay on the Trade Winds a real enough allusion to old Dampier which I should be very happy to see presented in your sketch of this great man.

I enclose a letter from my daughter Eliza to your daughter Henrietta, and as I know & esteem Col Balty very much, & have very long known & esteemed his wife, I enclose you a line to him. I rather fear that his health has suffered of late years, but he used to be a very good fellow - & I should think he would prove an acquisition to your Society.

Have you seen Lt Fordyce's book on Naval Routine? I don't know him personally but I have heard much about him - & I think the book well-calculated to aid & assist officers who, like myself, have got rusty. When ever you have leisure I shall always be most sincerely happy to hear from you about anything. With best regards to Mrs Smith & your whole family from Mrs Hall & my whole party, I remain,

Ever affy yrs

B. Hall