

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 imites every charm which mere nature can give - The five days journey a mule back to Messina is over mountains, sea shore, & vallies of which the perfume is so strong that a lady with weak nerves w^d be oppressed - After two days at M: we proceeded to Tasomina what think you of a keake so built that the back seems opening, the spectators could see Shout Etna - This real fire is better than the real water of Sudlers Wells - Then to Catania built amid masses of black lava - Etna I did not dare ascend - Richmond went & was rewarded with noble views - Then to Syracuse - An awful place - What think you? This city of two millions of men is shrunken into a mean town in on a tongue of land - Not a spot worth seeing by the present eye but to the eye of memory how glorious - I was taken to a dirty custom twenty 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 Arethusa!!! The hope rascally poets again say. 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 hauled at Ulysses - To be sure the cave is not there now but is imperte - I saw the ear of Dionysus - a silly story of modern invention but it is the finest quarry in the world and I plucked brought away some Papyrus - I then contin^d my ride and in four days came to Gorgenti I must refer you to some book of travels - Enough for me to say - Had one day seen these miracles of art with a guide - The next, R and I separated and each alone spent six hours under the pillars of these picean temples at least 3000 years old - In front the sea, behind a sub-vally under mountains - This city had 14 temples - The ruins of two are mere rubbish but consist; those of two others are consist of the columns entire - Then we went on to Selinunte - 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 Segera Segera temple in a wilderness - As a living thing did we see but wild fowl - Then we went to Trapani (having omitted to go to Trapani & Messala which are not worth seeing)

swearing there. The King is said to have replied to one of his remonstrating friends - "It is fact
 law or non-ame!" Pretty much what Jac: 2 felt when he sacrificed three Kingdoms for a man
 I open the French papers with intense 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 M^{rs} Collier and M^{rs} Aders that I am
 & shall they lose sometime and by them to write to me here - If W: were not a great Chancery
 practitioner I wd recommend him the post before morning he has to send up his card to Mr. G.
 11 Easton Square - he wd see a very interestt woman and bringing her news from me he wd be
 acceptt - I believe he knows M^{rs} Collier Perceval St: near Islington (Abbeys Dairy) She is worth
 calling on & so write to me (Plymouth) But if he cannot do this he will speak to William &

17 July 1830
 H.C. Robinson
 Florence.

ENGLAND
 W. Paterson
 FIRENZE
 W. Paterson
 BRANCO
 England

I have been very well since I came - We will pay you for my books
 He wd also give you for Mr. Paterson any letters which he has
 send for me wd work sending by the post - so along finally I have
 send friends my kind regards & still want to tell you nothing I have
 been for old friend Barker - now on the man with some things
 William G: I have not his name from Pat: - find remembrance to
 Mr. Paterson: the name of the man - find remembrance to
 I leave at 8:14:31 Monday
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 verbatim from Florence

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Or send a note to Aders at Jamesons Court house J. pt. 27 Laurence Poultry Lane rather M^{rs} Aders
 M^{rs} C: knows where to write to me I have now another commⁿ to trouble William with, for which I do feel a
 little ashamed - I met lately a M^{rs} Paterson whose son lives in Skinner St: but I have lost the card - luckily the
 sheet on which is short and if W: can find it I will thank him to ascertain in September whether M^{rs} P:
 is coming to Rome this autumn - If he is - Then I will further trouble W: to buy for me a copy of Elia which
 Platt can procure & find and the same of Holmes & Co and to Reflection - And these two books before the
 1st of Oct: to leave at W: P: - he offered to take not more than 3 bolonias for me - The parcel will not
 be made light as M^{rs} P: is to give read the books - He is a kind man who knew me at the same
 institution - I believe I have already said that I wish to W: to become acquainted with Platt
 I want to tell Paterson who would be very glad to know the name of William - I wish him to know that