The introduction of "Kiphan"... when I received was. Has it ever been the best of his works. Who is to be his editor? It is strange that something which attacks the reviewer so shortly in his "Kiphan" White, calling them in the name of an address should be perhaps the better of Treats. "Kiphan" White was nearly extinguished in the same way by a paragraph of his in the "Monthly." Such a slight sense of courage is surely ins "... in my heart. Would you like me to take... I shall do so myself with your advice. I find it expedient. Write directly.
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103
AUTOGRApH
of
Lord Byron.

Born

Died

NOTES
This letter was written to Shelley.
GEORGE GORDON, LORD BYRON, A. L. S., [30–31 July 1821,] to PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY.

[page one missing, location unknown]

2. omitted.—The impression of "Hyperion" upon my mind—was—that it was the best of his works.—Who is to be his editor?—It is

Transcription from:
strange that Southey who attacks the reviewers so sharply in his Kirke White—calling theirs "the ungentle craft"—should be perhaps the killer of Keats.—Kirke White was nearly extinguished in the same way—by a paragraph or two in "The Monthly."—Such inordinate sense of censure is surely incompatible with great exertion—have not all known writers been the subject thereof?

Yrs ever & truly

B.

P. S. If moving at present should be inconvenient to you—let me settle that—draw upon me for what you think necessary—I should do so myself on you without ceremony—if I found it expedient.—

—Write directly.—

ALS, 1 page. Single sheet, 24.7 x 18.6 cm.
Wove paper. Watermark: 8.9 cm, circle, centered—bust of Pope and PONTIFF X MAXIMUS PIUS SEPTIMUS on perimeter.
Seal: red wafer, Byron’s signet, almost completely preserved.
Postmarks: 1. RAVENNA; 2. 1 AGOSTO [receiving stamp, Pisa].
Address, verso: P. B. Shelley Esqre. | Signore Inglese | Poste Restante | Pisa, in Byron’s hand.
Provenance: Clements sale, Jan 1945.

Notes: 1. This appears to be the final item in an exchange of letters between Byron from Ravenna and Shelley from Pisa, after Keats’s death, 23 February 1821. Shelley conveyed the sad news, along with praise of “Hyperion,” on 16 April. Byron replied ten days later—sympathy but little praise for the poetry. There was more praise of “Hyperion” from Shelley on 4 May, and again on 16 July, when he wrote as if Byron had not yet seen the poem. He may have done so by 30 July, when he wrote John Murray: “You know very well that I did not approve of Keats’s poetry, or principles of poetry, or of his abuse of Pope; but, as he is dead, omit all that is said about him in any MSS. of mine, or publication. His Hyperion is a fine monument, and will keep his name. I do not envy the man who wrote the article: your review people have no more right to kill than any other foot pads. However, he who would die of an article in a review would probably have died of something else equally trivial. The same thing nearly happened to Kirke White, who afterwards died of a consumption." (Prothero, V, 331 [no. 914])

2. "Perhaps the killer of Keats," of Southey, appears to be an erroneous
reference to the author (J. W. Croker) of The Quarterly Review September 1818 criticism of Endymion. Byron (and others) wrongly believed that the January 1818 Quarterly piece on Leigh Hunt's Foliage had been done by Southey—an advocate of “soft” criticism. A regular contributor to the Quarterly since 1809, Southey edited the Remains of Henry Kirke White (whose Clifton Grove had been assailed in The Monthly Review for February 1804) in three volumes, 1807–1822.

3. The present letter is the one referred to in Mary Shelley's journal for 2 August 1821: "Thursday, AUG. 2.—Williams. Shelley returns. A letter with news." (Mary Shelley's Journal, ed. Frederick L. Jones [Norman, 1947], p. 159) Byron may have written it within the same hour that he wrote Murray on the same subject. Shelley found it awaiting him when he returned to the Bagni di Pisa from Florence; he left for Ravenna on the next day, arriving on the sixth at 10 p.m.

BYRON, (George Gordon, Lord) THE CONCLUDED PORTION OF AN A.L.S OF REMARKABLE INTEREST, TO P.B. SHELLEY, ESQ. Poste Restante, Pisa, n.d., REFERRING TO THE DEATH OF JOHN KEATS:

The impression of "Hyperion" upon my mind was that it was the best of his works. Who is to be his editor?—It is strange that Southey who attacks the reviewers so sharply in his Kirke White—calling theirs "the ungentle craft," should be perhaps the killer of Keats—Kirke White was nearly extinguished in the same way—by a paragraph or two in "The Monthly"—Such inordinate sense of censure is surely incompatible with great exertion, have not all known writers been the subject thereof?

Yrs. ever & truly

B.

P.S. If moving at present should be inconvenient to you—let me settle that draw upon me for what you think necessary, I should do so myself on you without ceremony if I found it expedient. Write directly:
OF REMARKABLE INTEREST, REFERRING TO THE DEATH OF JOHN KEATS

103. BYRON, GEORGE GORDON, LORD. The second, and concluding, page of an A.L.s. "By." 1 p., 4to, about 175 words. Ravenna, undated. With an address on verso of sheet "To P. B. Shelley, Esqr., . . . Pisa" and with the postmark stamp "Ravenna".

"The impression of 'Hyperion' upon my mind was that it was the best of his works. Who is to be his editor? It is strange that Southey who attacks the reviewers so sharply in his Kirke White—calling theirs 'the ungentle craft', should be perhaps the killer of Keats. . . ."