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Lanymouth... Dec. 29. 1812.

My dear Friend

W<sup>m</sup> Hancock

Your letter contains some hints of the possibility of your being at home in a short time. I sincerely hope that your schemes would allow a visit to Lanymouth. The advantage of a mail within 17 miles would surely obviate any health in the affair. — We all anxiously wish that you wd come, & believe that your hint was something better than a mere lure for the opportunity of refusal. — We are all surprised at the complaints of cold which issue from London. For a day or two indeed it bit a little in the part of the morning, but nothing more.

Believe me that I sympathize in your feelings on Mrs. Napack's Peace very warmly. Buonaparte is a personage to whom I have a very great objection. He is to me a hateful & despicable being. He is seduced by the grossest & most vulgar ambition into actions which only differ from those of pirates by virtue of the number of men & the variety of resources under his command. — His talents appear to me altogether contemptible & common place; incapable as he is of comparing connectedly the most obvious propositions; or relishing any pleasure truly ennobling. — Excepting Lord Castlereagh you could not have mentioned any character but Buonaparte whom I contemn & abhor more vehem-

monthly. With respect to these Measures in the North, if they  
tend towards Peace they are good. . . . of otherwise they are  
bad. — This is the standard by which I shall ultimately  
measure my approbation of them. — At the same time  
I cannot but say that the prod impression which  
they made on me, was one of honor & respect. —

Swaytham's defence was certainly not so good as it  
might have been; it was fettered by the place wherein  
he stood. <sup>in</sup> entire liberty of speech was denied him, he could  
neither speak treason, he could not commit a libel. & though  
his client was not to be defended on the basis of moral  
truth. . . . he was compelled to hesitate when truth was  
living to his lips; he could utter that which he did utter  
only by circumlocution & irony. — The Ill. Gen's speech  
appeared to me the consummation of all shameful  
violence. & the address of D. Wentworth, so beset with a  
piece of Timeservingness, that I am sure his heart must  
have laughed at his lips as he pronounced it.

I have as yet received no answer from the Duke  
of Norfolk. — I scarcely expect one. — I do not see  
that it is the interest of my Father to come to terms  
during my voyage, perhaps even not after. — Do you  
know I cannot prevail upon myself to care much  
about it. — Hannah is very happy as we are, & I  
am very happy; — I question if I may with any

calamities would add at all to our tranquillity. — They would be  
blotting & playing the D. role, or showing us to some people  
who would do so. — or they would be & be dull. or they  
wd. take stupid labels or dishes, & they certainly might create  
an liberty of your movements. — In fact, I have written to  
the Duke. I can say to my conscience "I have done my best"  
but I shall not be very unhappy of spirit. —

I continue vexed. Truism means to be slightly unwell  
until the arrival of spring. — My health is much improved  
by it. The puny perhaps by my removal from your  
nervous racking & spent quelling breathless

We are divided between two opinions. Whether you  
really wish allow us the heartfelt pleasure of  
seeing you here this winter; or whether your  
suggestion was a quizz.

My dear friend

I remain yours very affectionately

Percy Shelley

only in  
address



J. Pearson Esq  
11 St James Lane  
London



PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY, A. L. S., 27 December 1812,  
to Thomas Jefferson Hogg.

Tanyralt. . . . Dec. 27. 1812.

My dear Friend

Your letter to Harriet contains some hints of the possibility of your being at leisure in a short time. I sincerely hope that your schemes would allow a visit to Tanyralt. The advantage of a mail within 17 miles would entirely obviate any trouble in the affair.—We all anxiously wish you w<sup>d</sup>. come, & hope that your hint was something better than a mere lure for the opportunity of refusal.—We are all surprised at the complaints of cold which issue from London. For a day or two indeed it bit a little in the first of the morning, but nothing more.

Believe me that I sympathise in your feelings on Buonaparte & Peace very warmly. Buonaparte is a personage to whom I have a very great objection. he is to me a hateful & despicable being. He is seduced by the grossest & most vulgar ambition into actions which only differ from those of pirates by virtue of the number of men & the variety of resources under his command.—His talents appear to me altogether contemptible & common place; incapable as he is of comparing connectedly the most obvious propositions; or relishing any pleasure truly enrapturing.—Excepting Lord Castlereagh you could not have mentioned any character but Buonaparte whom I condemn & abhor more vehe [p. 2] mentally. . . With respect to these victories in the North, if they tend towards Peace they are good. . . . if otherwise they are bad.—This is the standard by which I shall ultimately measure my approbation of them.—At the same time I cannot but say that the first impression which they made on me, was one of horror & regret.—

Brougham's defense was certainly not so good as it might have been; it was fettered by the place wherein he stood. entire liberty of speech was denied him. he could neither [deleted] not speak treason, he could not commit a libel. & therefore his client was not to be defended on the basis of moral truth. . . . He was compelled to hesitate when truth was rising to his lips; he could utter that which he did utter only by circumlocution & irony.—The Sol. Gen's speech appeared

to me the consummation of all shameless insolence. & the address of L<sup>d</sup> Ellenborough, so barefaced a piece of timeservingness, that I'm sure his heart must have laughed at his lips as he pronounced it.

I have as yet received no answer from the Duke of Norfolk.—I scarcely expect one.—I do not see that it is the interest of my Father to come to terms during my nonage, perhaps even not after.—Do you know I cannot prevail upon myself to care much about it.—Harriet is very happy as we are, & I am very happy;—I question if intimacy with my [p. 3] relations would add at all to our tranquillity.—They would be plotting & playing the Devil, or shewing us to some people who would do so:—or they would bore & be dull. or they wd. take stupid likes or dislikes, & they certainly might cramp the liberty of our movements.—In fact, I have written to the duke. I can say to my Conscience "I have done my best" but I shall not be very unhappy if I fail.—

I continue vegetable. Harriet means to be slightly animal until the arrival of Spring.—My health is much improved by it. tho partly perhaps by my removal from your nerve racking & spirit quelling metropolis.

We are divided between two opinions. Whether you really will allow us the heartfelt pleasure of seeing you here this winter; or whether your suggestion was a quiz.

My dear friend

I remain Yours very affectionately

Percy B Shelley

[flourish]

ALS, 3 pages. Double sheet, 22.2 x 18.3 cm.

Wove paper. Watermark: JOHN HAMES.

Seal: red wafer.

Postmarks: CARNARVON | [indistinct] [straight-line mileage stamp]; [blurred] | 30 DE 30 | 1812 [evening duty stamp, London]. Postal fee: 1.

Address: T. Jefferson Hogg Esq<sup>re</sup> | No 70 Chancery Lane, | London.

Provenance: Hogg sale, Sotheby, 30 Jun 1948 (lot 49). Listed in De Ricci, p. 129 (no. 199).

Published in Hogg (not consulted); Ingpen, I, 374–377; Ingpen and Peck, IX, 37–39; Jones, I, 345–347 (no. 219), with 9 accidental variations from the Lewis MS.

Notes: 1. Hogg and the Shelleys did not see each other until after Shelley and Harriet had gone to Killarney and then to London in April 1813 (Hogg did get as far as Dublin on the way to Killarney).

2. John and Leigh Hunt of the *Examiner* were tried (9 December 1812) and sentenced (4 February 1813) for a libel on the Prince Regent; Ellenborough prosecuted, Brougham defended.

3. Shelley's letter to the Duke of Norfolk and one written to his father at about the same time do not survive.

4. On vegetarianism see White, I, 299-300.

5. Here published by permission of Frederick L. Jones and the Clarendon Press, Oxford.

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Percy B. Shelley

49 A. L. s. "Percy B. Shelley", 3 pp. 4to, *Tanyralt*, Dec. 27, 1812, to T. Jefferson Hogg (*Hogg*, II, 195; *Ingpen*, 163), an interesting letter referring to the defeat of the Grande Armée in Russia: L 45

"Excepting Lord Castlereagh you could not have mentioned any character but Buonaparte whom I condemn and abhor more vehemently."

Speaks at length of Leigh Hunt's trial on a charge of libelling the Prince Regent, and of the Duke of Norfolk's efforts to reconcile him with his father:

"I question whether intimacy with my relations would add at all to our tranquillity . . . I continue vegetable. Harriet means to be slightly animal until the arrival of Spring."