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you certains what harvet the tast The greatest consideration , till cherishes she cheristes a prejudice intervover with the fibres of her being - This is the point. that if you wich with us you would be divine this last commuteer of your love for haviet I can have title doubt. If this without being a suphi as bogon bitues. you wrath your denieve yourself. you work fany it was wither, Apapean molific in excuses would win Thousands When to great was the the punhase from but letter Shave heart as beton unkyour will ... pt th! how immented to pupion! Heware my freend, my Mear unhappy friend whom withhe down is mine how hearty words cannot title. be unain at her wish. We will here whent for une time - From new go when booth again - halingsons most affectionally with unabberates benjohelle.

YE know

## PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY, A. L. S., [c. 12 November 1811,] to Thomas Jefferson Hogg.

Post Office Keswick Cumberland not Mr. D. Crosthwaites

I promised to write to you to day my dear friend, but again another day has elapsed in the occupation of preparing our residence and night has come, when the Post leaves us. Convince me that it is right. . morally, correctly right; that your own interest your own real interest demands it & no power on earth shall prevent our living with you... At present it appears to me the necessary cause of misery, destruction. You will again be tempted to what you now regard with horror. You will see when it is too late the misery you have caused. Your feelings are exquisitely keen.. if such have been your feelings now.. if they could have urged you to the dismaying brink of suicide, an act which involves we know not what . . what then wd. be your feelings . . & to these would I by ill timed indulgence to yourself & to me, expose you . . never, never, this must not be.—Nothing you say would sooner have driven you to demand satisfaction so soon as an accusation of what you have since attempted—: And are you not my friend [p. 2] warned by this fearful lesson, is it not impressive, does it not now recur to your mind. how confident were you then! can you conceive confidence more firm, it cannot be firmer than firmest. . How then will you again dare to expose yourself to what is so tyrannical whose tyranny you have so perfectly experienced. I hope I am not prejudiced. I attempt to be otherwise. I hope generally speaking I have appeared so to you. I attach little value to the monopoly of exclusive cohabitation. You know that I frequently have spoken slightly of it.. this I wd not value. were this to have been yielded to you, & the sentiments with which we regarded each other still to have remained unchanged suppose not that I would have envyed you what I too might share, what I should not much care utterly to resign (you see I am as explicit as you were) But it is not this alone, it is the consideration what men have chosen to make of this, from which I perhaps am not quite free, what [p. 3] you

certainly retain what Harriet (the last the greatest consideration) still cherishes still cherishes as a prejudice interwoven with the fibres of her being—This is the point; that if you lived with us you would be driven to this last consummation of your love for Harriet I can have little doubt: & this without being a sceptic as to your virtues. You would again deceive yourself. You would fancy it was virtue, & passion prolific in excuses would coin thousands when so great was to be the purchase Your last letter I have read as I wou[ld] read your soul.... yet oh! how inconsistent is passion! Beware my friend, my dear unhappy friend whose wretchedness is mine how keenly words cannot tell.—

We remain at Keswick. We settle here at least for some time—I will never go to the South again—Adieu yours

Most affectionately most unalterably Percy Shelley.

ALS, 3 pages. Double sheet, 23.2 x 18.7 cm.

Wove paper. No watermark.

Seal removed.

Postmark: KESWICK | 298 | [straight-line mileage stamp]. Postal fee: 8.

Address: T. Jefferson Hogg Esqre | Mr. Stricklands | Blake Street | York.

Provenance: Hogg sale, Sotheby, 30 Jun 1948 (lot 42). Listed in De Ricci, p. 127 (no. 121).

Published in Hogg (not consulted); Ingpen, I, 156–157; Ingpen and Peck, VIII, 183; New Shelley Letters, ed. W. S. Scott (London, 1948), pp. 55–57 (no. 21); Jones, I, 175–176 (no. 136), with 3 substantive and 31 accidental variations from the Lewis MS.

Notes: 1. For a convenient account of Hogg's pursuit of Harriet see White, I, 170-171.

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

POST OFFICE Keswick Cummberland

Nxt. Mr. D. Crosthwaites

I promised to write to you to day my dear friend, but again another day has elapsed in the occupation of preparing our evidence and night has come, when the Post leaves us. Convince me that it is right morally, correctly right; that your own interest your wwn real interest demands it & no power on earth shall prevent our living with you...At present it appears to me the necessary cause of misery, destruction. You will again be tempted to what you now regard with horror. You will see when it is too late the misery you have caused. Your feelings are exquisitely keen...if such have been your feelings now....if they would have urged you to the dismaying brink of suicide, an act what involves we know not what...what then would be your feelings...& to these would I beg its indulgence to yourself & to me, Expose you. never, never this must not be ... Nothing you say would sooner have driven you to demand satisfaction so soon as an accusation of what you have since attempted . And are you not my friend warned by this fearful lesson. is it not impressive. does it not now seem to your mind. . How confident were you then! Can you conceive confidence more firm. I cannot be firmer than firmest. How then will you again dare to expose yourself to what is so tyrannical whose tyranny you have so perfectly experienced. I hope I am not prejudicial. I attempt to be otherwise. generally speaking I have appeared so to you. I attach little value to the monopoly of exclusive cohabitation. You know that I frequently have spoken slightly of it. this I would not value. were this to have been yielded to you, & the sentiments with which we regarded each other still to have remained unchanged suppose not that I would have envyed you what I too might share, what to weigh (you see I am as explicit as you were) But I should not much care it is not this alone, it is the consideration what men have chosen to make of this, from which I perhaps am not quite free, what you certainly retain what

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Percy Shelley

## P. B. SHELLEY—continued

42 A. L. s. "Percy Shelley", 3 closely written pp. 4to, Post Office, Keswick, Cumberland, no date [November, 1811], to T. Jefferson Hogg Esqre., Mr. Stricklands, Blake Street, York (Hogg, II, 15-16; Ingpen, 89, both published versions omit the greater part of the letter; Harriet and Mary, p. 15), last page very slightly defective

\*\* A long and most interesting and important letter, reasoning with Hogg who apparently had written to express his wish to live with the Shelleys, and had threatened suicide if this was refused:

"I attach little value to the monopoly of exclusive cohabitation . . . . But it is not this alone, it is the consideration what men have chosen to make of this, from which I perhaps am not quite free, what you certainly retain [,] what Harriet (the last the greatest consideration) still cherishes . . . as a prejudice interwoven with the fibres of her being . . . if you lived with us you would be driven to this last consummation of your love for Harriet I can have little doubt . . . your last letter I have read as I would read your soul . . . '', etc.