

declined by Return of Post.

Sir

I have in my possession a Manuscript Book,
comprised in three Vol^s about the length of Miss Burney's
Evelina. As I am well aware of what consequence it is that a
work of this sort should make its first appearance under a respect-
able name I apply to you. Shall be much obliged therefore if
you will inform me whether you chuse to be concerned in it;
what will be the expense of publishing at the Author's risk;
& what you will venture to advance for the Property of it,
if on a perusal it is approved of.

Should your answer give me encouragement I will
send you the work.

I am, Sir, Y^r. ob^l humble Serv^t

Geo Austen.

Sturton near Oronton

Hants

1st Nov^r 1797.

Letter from ~~to~~ Mr Cadell from Jane's
Father defining Pride & Prejudice.
which was declined by return

under your  National Archives
to the ~~Library~~ ^{Library of Congress} ~~of the~~ ^{of the} ~~Library of Congress~~
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I was pretty well in health and work a good deal in
the garden, but for these last 3 or 4 weeks have had
weakness in my eyes; it was such for you it need not
come sooner, for I could not now make pocketbooks,
Pockets & dressing gowns for my Bride expectant —

I can not wear my Spectacles, and therefore can do
hardly any work but knitting white yarn and plating
white willow. I write & read without Spectacles and

therefore do but little of either — We have
a good appearance of flowers in the shrubbery
and borders, & what is still better, a very
good crop of Smack Beans, even your gooseberry Tree
does better than hitherto, when ^{in fruit} they are ripe I shall
sit upon my Bench, eat them & think of you. No I can
do that without the assistance of like gooseberries;
indeed, my dear Anna, there ~~was~~ is nobody I think
of often, my for I love better — My Eyes are tired
so I must quit you — I remain

Yr Affct G. Fr.

Austen

better than if he had been very Good or very Bad. - A few verbal
 corrections make all that I felt tempted to make - the principal of
 them is a speech of St. Julian to Lady Helena - which you will see I
 have presumed to alter. - As Lady H. is Cecilia's & Susan's, it w^d. not be
 correct to talk of her being introduced; Cecilia must be the person intro-
 duced - and I do not like a lover's speaking in the 3^d person; - it is too
 much like the formal part of Lord Overton, & I think is not natural.
 If you think differently however, you need not mind me. - I am
 impatient for more - & only wait for a safe conveyance to return this
 Book. - Yours affectionately, J. A.

1814

Miss Austen

Weymouth

My dear Anna - I am very much obliged to you for sending your M.S.
 It has entertained me extremely, all of us wives; I read it aloud to
 your G.M. - & W^d. - and we are all very much pleased. - The Spirit
 does not droop at all. In this - Lady Helena, & St. Julian are very
 well done - & Cecilia continues to be interesting in spite of her being
 so amiable. - It was very pit that you should discover her age.
 I like the beginning of D. Forester very much - a great deal

Chawton Wednesday Aug: 10.

My dear Anna

I am quite ashamed to find that I have never answered some questions of yours in a former note. — I kept the note on purpose to refer to it at a proper time, & then forgot it. — I like the name "which is the Heroine?" very well, & I dare say shall grow to like it very much in time but "Enthusiasm" was something so very superior that every common title must appear to disadvantage. — I am not sensible of any blunder about Dawlish. The Librarian was particularly pitiful & snatched 12 years ago, & not likely to have any body's publications. — There is no such title at Dorchester — either among the Dukes, Marquises, Earls, Viscounts or Barons. — These were your enquiries. —

I will now thank you for your Envelope, received this morning. — I hope Mr. W. D. will come. — I can readily imagine Mr. H. D. may be very like a profligate young Lord. — I dare say the likeness will be beyond every thing. Your Aunt Pats. — is as well pleased with St. Julian as ever.

I am delighted with the idea of seeing Peggibian again.

Wednesday 17. — We have just finished the 1st of the 3 Books I had the pleasure of receiving yesterday; I read it aloud — & we are all very much amused, & like the work quite as well as ever. — I depend upon getting

The first of these is the fact that the
 Hebrew word for "law" is *torah*, which
 means "instruction" or "teaching". This
 word is used in the Bible to refer to the
 law of God, the law of Moses, and the
 law of the land. It is also used to refer
 to the law of nature, the law of reason,
 and the law of conscience. The word
torah is derived from the root *tor*, which
 means "to teach" or "to instruct". This
 root is also found in the words *teacher*,
doctrine, and *discipline*. The word *torah*
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through another booth before dinner, but there is really
a great deal of respectable reading in Lynce 40 Pages.
I was an hour about it. — I have no doubt that B will
make a very good sized volume. — You must be quite
pleased to have accomplished so much. — I like Lord P. &
his Brother very much; — I am only afraid that Lord P.'s
good nature will make most people like him better than
he deserves. — The whole Portman Family are very good —
& Lady Anne, who was your guest dead; you have
succeeded particularly well with. — Nell Griffin is just
what she should be. — My Corrections have not been
more important than before; here & there, we have thought
the sense might be expressed in fewer words — and I have
scratched out Sir Tho: from walking with the other Men to
the stables &c. the very day after his breaking his arm — for
though I find Lynce Papa did walk out immediately after
his arm was set, I think it can be so little usual as
to appear unnatural in a book — & it does not seem to
be material that Sir Tho: should go with them. —
Lynce will not do. Lynce is towards 40 miles distance
from Dawlish & would not be that of there. — I have
put Starcross indeed. — If you prefer Exeter, that must
be always safe. — I have also scratched out the Intro-
duction between Lord P. & his Brother, & M^{rs}. Griffin.

A Country Surgeon (don't tell Mr. C. Lyford) would not
be introduced to Men of their Rank. — And, when Mr.
Portman is first brought in, he wd. not be introduced as
the Hon. ^{ble} — That distinction is never mentioned at such
times; — at least I believe not. — Now, we have finished the
2^d book — or rather the 5th. — I do think you had better omit
Lady Helena's postscript; — to those who are acquainted with
P. P. it will seem an imitation. — And even Aunt C. & I
both recommend you making a little alteration in the last
scene between Devereux F. & Lady Cammermay & her Daughters.
We think they press him too much — more than sensible
Women or well-bred Women would do. Lady C. at least,
should have discretion enough to be sooner satisfied
with his determination of not going with them. —
I am very much pleased with Estlin as yet. — I did not
expect to like him, but I do; & Susan is a very nice
little animated Creature. — but Mr. Julian is the delight of
one's Life. He is quite interesting. — The whole of his
break-off with Lady H. is very well done. —

Yes — Regent Square is a very proper distance from
Buckley St. — We are reading the last book. — They must
be two days going from Dawlish to Bath; They are nearly 100 ^{miles} ^{apart}.
Thursday. We finished it last night, after our return from
drinking tea at the Gf. House. — The last chapter does not please
us quite so well, we do not thoroughly like the Play; perhaps
from having had too much of Play & in that way lately. —
And we think you had better not leave England. Let the
Portmans go to Ireland, but as you know nothing of the
manners there, you had better not go with them. You
will be in danger of giving false representations. Stick

to Bath & the Forester. There you will be quite at home. —
 Your Aunt P. does not like desultory words, & is rather fearful
 you will be too much so, that there will be too frequent a
 change ^{from one to} of people to another, & that circumstances will be some-
 times introduced of apparent consequence, which will lead to
 nothing. — It will not be so great an objection to me, if it
 does. I allow much more latitude than she does — & think
 Nature & Spirit come more alive of a wandering stage — and
 People in general do not care so much about it. — For your comfort

49
 5
 240

Miss Austen

Aug. 10th

I should like to have had more of Devereux. I do not feel
 enough acquainted with him. — You were afraid of meddling
 with him. I dare say. — I like your sketch of Lord Clammy,
 and your picture of the two poor young girls enjoyment is
 very good. — I have not yet noticed St. Julian's serious conver-
 sation with Cecilia, but I liked it exceedingly; — what he
 says about the madness of other wise sensible women, on the
 subject of their daughters coming out, is worth its weight in
 gold. — I do not see that the language sinks. — Pray go on.
 Yours very affec^t J. Austen

Order your name sent to Bathurst by Mr. Griffiths.
 Devereux & Jane stand in — let Griffiths
 know, he is in the County. — I am left
 to beguile you the County. —

