# The 7th Feb. 1852, John Croker à François Guizot

**Auteurs : Croker, John-Wilson (1780-1857)**

## Les folios

En passant la souris sur une vignette, le titre de l'image apparaît.

4 Fichier(s)

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## Relations entre les lettres

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7 Feb. 52.

Mon cher ami

I have had two reasons for not writing to you for the last two months. One was that I did not know how, in the state of your country, you might like to be troubled with a foreign correspondent, whose letters, however innocent, might have to pass thro' the Cabinet noir — for I suppose the Cabinet noir survives all revolutions. The other was &, I am sorry to say, is that I have been for above two months supposed to be in imminent danger of my life — The malady was a strange one. I used to have fainting fits (défaillances) 2, 3, 4 may sometimes up to 10 or 12, a day — they never lasted above quarter of a minute, during which I seemed lifeless, but the moment they passed away, I was, to all appearance in body, & certainly in mind, as well as ever I was in my life: & in those intervals, at our friend L's request, I furnished him, as a final adieu

adieu, with my opinions on the last act of a great drama which I have followed with great interest & very divided views for above 50 years. By degrees, the defaillances become less frequent, but they have been followed by a low rate of pulse (ranging from 24 to 31) which is equally alarming. The immediate danger seems to be the creating an effusion of water on the chest — which I believe has already begun, tho' my Doctors hope not. I need not tell you that this is an incurable disease; & I hope you will believe that I have strength of mind & Christian faith enough to enable me to contemplate the result with gratitude for a long prosperous & on the whole happy life — with resignation under my present trials — & with humble hope for futurity, derived admittedly from no merit of my own. I trouble you with this detail, because it is possible that this may be the last letter I shall be able to write to you (indeed I write it in bed & under mechanical difficulties) and I wish you to know exactly the state of one who has the greatest esteem & regard for you, and no small anxiety about your welfare in these hurricane times. Adieu!

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of a great drama
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begun, the my
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& I hope you
the of mind &
enable me to
with gratitude
whole, happy life —
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eternity, devined
my own. I trouble
all is possible
letter I shall be
I write it in
difficulties) and
the state of
& regard for
about your welfare
times. Adieu!

I now change my subject. I am pained
that you have mentioned to me "might be
intercepted or delayed", & I took the precau-
tion of sending a portion of it to M. P. to
be handed to you. He tells me that he had
it in his pocket when he saw you, but did
not give it to you because "you told him
"you had got the whole" & even showed
it to him. I cannot reconcile this with your
letter, & suppose my friend must have made
some blunder. I am particularly anxious
that you should have been able to give
me your opinion on it, through him, as
I hardly know when you may have
another safe opportunity. If he calls on
you again, pray write to me fully & candid-
ly — not that I shall ever do any thing
in such matters
myself or any — his counsel or tongue re-
mains, but as long as I live I shall look
with interest at the great drama & espe-
cially as to its effect on you personally. The
present state is nothing but songe et men-
songe — moribond comme je me crois, je
pourrais bien encore en voir la fin — Celui
s'écroulera aussi vite qu'on l'a élevé. It is
in the nature of things that sudden fortunes
are short lived & hurry works fragile & fugitive.
You know that Pozzo said of me, & I believe
truly it, that I was the only man he ever
met

that who never despaired of putting down Napoleon – I printed that prophecy in 1809 – I repeated it even when all the kings of Europe were kissing his slipper at Dresden. I looked at the 100 days as a galvanic experiment, on which was irretrievably dead – & if he had won the battle of Waterloo, it would have given him but a few months respite – So, I tell you this parody of an emperor is nothing but a melancholy farce. I doubt its lasting 6 months – They say that storms clear the air. The false policy of our old friend had renewed the Bonaparte prestige – the advent of his brothers was necessary to clear the atmosphere of that taint, under the influence of which there can be neither peace for France nor for Europe – the fanatical mad schemes will extinguish the Bonapartes & they will become of no more importance, perhaps of less, than the rest of the Corsican gang the Abbatucci's, the Casabianca's the Walewski's Moncey's Flahaut's &c &c.

I received yesterday at 3 p.m. at 10 M. the assembler hotesale of that scene morning & read before dinner M. de Mont alembert's vigorous speech delivered the day before – Vive la vérité! Will the provincial press be allowed to reproduce these discours. Ever yours