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Alverbank Gosport, the 27th Jan. 1856, John Croker à François Guizot

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

Les folios

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7 Fichier(s)

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Lieu de rédactionWest Molesey (Angleterre)

Information Bibliographique

Titre	Auteur	Date	Lien
Mémoires pour servir à l'histoire de mon temps	François Guizot	1858	Lien externe
Notice créée par Marie Dupond Notice créée le 01/10/2024 Dernière modification le 08/10/2025			

90/

West Molesey Surrey
27. Jan^y 1856

Mon cher ami,

I have been for three weeks in great trouble about my second grand son. George Barrow, who has been dangerously ill at Oxford, where my wife & Lady Barrow have been in anxious attendance on him. He is now, however, thank God, pronounced out of danger, & I am able to follow my usual avocations; and my first letter is to thank you for yours of the 18th. The review of Memoranda is not mine, but I believe that, as you guess, my suggestion prompted it. I was anxious that the book should be noticed & as it deserved to be, & I found both publisher & editor, ^{quite} ready to do any thing agreeable to you. I am not altogether satisfied with the execution, but on the whole it is very well. The book itself is really a surprising one for a youth of William's age & on that point a little more might have been said. What you tell me of Brissot's memoirs only confirms my impressions of the deplorable bad faith of the modern school of history in France. What can be said for M. M. Barriere & Deloille - men of some name & one should know

I hoped of
have some probity, who being entrusted
with editing what was supposed to be a
great national work, no less than the col-
lected body of the ^{the} memoirs of the revolution, not only
have given themselves no trouble to
make perfect what was originally pub-
lished imperfectly, but who, fraudu-
lently garbled the evidence which they
affect to give in its integrity; & here again
we have the whole literary world of
France submitting, and ^{by their silence} ~~many~~ combining,
to deceive their own times & posterity by
such a fabrication as those memoirs
of Brissot. Think of our being reduced
to read & to write the history of your
great revolution - the greatest event in
the history of mankind since the down-
fall of the Roman empire in the garbled
memoirs of Madame Lobau, the fabri-
cated memoirs of Brissot & the forged
memoirs of Robespierre; & that no
literary man & no literary journal,
that I know of, should have given
the world the slightest hint that, were
walking unverdorben: and then comes
such a man as M. Thiers who makes his
reputation & his fortune by ^{own} ~~garbling~~
over all those old deceptions & replatement
the whole with a couche of his own
badigeon.

My curiosity
about

about La Leg-
him as an a-
and a misrep-
sent as active
the "20 juin"
the time in
fairly no
evidence & p-
tially worth the
self I find
of the subse-
allowed to
character of
exactly as in
"20 juin" -
"L'ancien" &
"25 Revers" &
see that I find
tory throws
on the mecha
him as early
names of the
Praying a
des Murres,
chasing of
& little like
the revolution
ing the mob
Inconceivable
we find him
or rather at

about La Legrie arose from M. Thiers citing
him as an authority for a quote & importing
and a misrepresentation, so that Robespierre
was an active prompter & accomplice in
the "20 juin" one of the few in favour of
the time in which Robespierre had cer-
tainly no hand. I examined de Legrie's
evidence & found it, on the face of it, in-
tensely worth less, & on tracing the man him-
self I find that he was, as you say, one
of the subtilest villains who were
allowed to abuse the name & stain the
character of the brave people - who were
exactly as innocent of the "6 octobre" - the
"20 juin" - the "10 août" - the "2 sept" - the "21
janvier" - the "16 oct" - as they were of the
"25 février" & "2 Décembre". The slight glimpse
that I find of this obscure fellow's his-
tory throws a not unimportant light
on the mechanisms of the revolution. I find
him as early at least as 1783 under the
name of the Abbi de la Legrie de la
Brugère a partaster, in the Almanach
des Muses, the Mercure & the like,
chattering gossip flatterer on the great
& little libels on his neighbours. When
the revolution came, I find him join-
ing the mob that liberated the Guards
Barricades on the 1st July 1789. On the 14th -
we find him at the capture of the Bastille
or rather at its plunder, for he possessed
himself

self of the sacred objects belonging to the
Chapel & was accused of having stolen
them - he admitted that he had taken
them & conveyed to a private apartment,
but he alleged that it was only because
the crowd was so great that he could not
get to the Hotel de Ville & that, in attendance,
he had thought it prudent to ~~place~~^{put} them
in a safe place. This affair made a good
deal of noise, but his defence did not
satisfy the public, & he was for years
after known as the "voleur des vases sac-
res". I next find him busy in ^{the} pagita
house which preceded "le 20 juin", in
which also he figured as one of Santerre's
national guards & this was I think the
only name he had to the epithet of
pretre-soldat. Such a name, with
his usual grandiloquence, gives him
the ^{want} of having a shy & was con-
sidered in detecting fabrications of false
evidence, & complained that he was not
only not encouraged but persecuted. In
short he was evidently a scoundrel
but the historical point is, his appearance
& disappearance & participation with the
same band of villains which had com-
mitted all these outrages & was evidently
guided by one plotting head & paid by one
guilty hand. But enough of the
natural

au liv. XVI, part. 4. de l'Histoire des Girou-
dins M. de Lamartine appelle un certain
Laroyrie "pretre-soldat", on voudrait
savoir ou M. de Lamartine a trouve
que Laroyrie fut "pretre", ou autrement
"soldat", que comme garde-national.

30^{to}
Patriot Abbe! I now crave your opinion
on a very different subject & person. We
have been much struck here by M. de Mont-
alembert's work sur l'avenir politique de
l'Angleterre & I want you to tell me all
you can & as soon as you can about it &
its author. I sent him it in the "Courrier
de Paris" which our friend Lady Alice Paul brought
me - but I hear that it originally appeared
in the Spectator & I have since got it in
a volume - It is very clever and in gene-
ral very true, the 'yes & I' Monarchy will
not subscribe to his comparisons, nor I
to his opinion of our Parliamentary Reform.

Murray is getting it translated & has
ask'd me to look over it as it passes thro'
the press & I am inclined to do, but I want
to know what you think of it. Of course I
see clearly enough that in the shape of a
Lamington on England it takes every mean
sion of giving some coups de patte cher
lui - so much so that I wonder it has not
obtained more than literary notice. Now I
want to know exactly who M. de M. I know
formerly a very good & agreeable gentleman
(who was in fact a kind of colleague of mine)
of that name - a Baron de Montalembert who
was a Colonel in our service; who married
an English lady a wife for her the daughter of
another old friend of mine - & they had a
son born in London in 1810. After the rest
when the Colonel returned to France & was

I guess the same person who was afterwards
Comte de Montalambert, French minister
in Sweden & a pair de France. Can
the present Montalambert be that son
born in London in 1810. I find in the
Biographies of your chamber that
after the February debacle, the Comte de
Montalambert was a deputy in both the
Republican ^{as well as in the present one} ~~assemblies~~ - but it states that
he was born in Paris in 1812 - He may be
a younger brother, but yet I know that
my friend Montalambert was still li-
ving in London in 1812 - so that I am at
a loss as to the identity of our author.
It will certainly not diminish the im-
mense value of his work, that he has
some of our blood and such good oppor-
tunity for being acquainted with our
institutions, but these circumstances
would certainly make a great difference
on the Continent as to the weight of his
testimony. Now I throw myself on your
intellectual friendship to let me know
the exact state of the case that if I
should assist Minerva's translator I
may do so in pleine connaissance de
cause. I need not assure that I ask &
shall receive your information in secrecy
and confidence - but in truth what I
enquire

enquire of
General Sir
In London
the other day
graphique of
you have, I
this old ch
to you or
like to see
Vol Riden
ble
it is
so -
me -
I shall roll
address it
hand of
Pray
I want to be
gratulate
selves of the
this odious
Tell her I lo
ble of Bonn
sheet which
have heard
"tot-tot-rot"

afterwards
the minister
- can
- son
- in the
that
com to de
bo the his
that
- any he
- that
- like to =
I am at
author.
the in =
he has
- oppor
- the ear
- dance
- difference
- of his
- from your
- know
- if I
- later I
- ance de
- ark &
- in survey
- that I
- engine

engine about must be matter of pretty
general notoriety in France

In looking over some old maps
the other day, I found a carte topo-
graphique du Diocèse de Lisieux; and
you have, as I have, the Caprin map.
This old chiffon can be of no value
to you or me, but you perhaps might
like to hang it up in the hall at the
Vel d'Hiver & as it will be little trou-

ble & no expense to send
it over to you I will do
so - unless you forbid
me - by some opportunity.

I shall roll it round a bit of stick &
address it to you in Paris by the
kind of some friend

Pray make my best compli-
ments to Madame de Lieven - I con-
gratulate her & you & myself & our
selves of the prospect of getting rid of
this odious unjust & unbecoming war.
Till her I long to return the poor peo-
ple of Bomarsund their other land-
stick which I shall do as soon as we
have peace. Ever tout à vous
"tot-tot-repoussé tot"! Wrotter