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## **Kensington Palace, the 8th Jan. 1857, 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.

6 Fichier(s)

### **Les mots clés**

[France \(1852-1870, Second Empire\)](#), [Politique \(Angleterre\)](#), [Publication](#)

### **Relations entre les lettres**

Ce document n'a pas de relation indiquée avec un autre document du projet.□

### **Présentation**

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## Informations éditoriales

Destinataire Guizot, François (1787-1874)

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## Information Bibliographique

Titre	Auteur	Date	Lien
Sir Robert Peel : étude d'histoire contemporaine / par M. Guizot	François (1787-1874) Auteur du texte Guizot	1856	<a href="#">Lien externe</a>

Notice créée par [Marie Dupond](#) Notice créée le 01/10/2024 Dernière modification le 14/12/2024

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96 /

Kensington Palace  
8<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> London  
1857.

Mon cher ami

I have this moment  
received (by sending to M. Li-  
bri's who lives in this quarter)  
your "Les Roberts Peal" & I  
hasten to thank you for it  
lest my gratitude might  
seem dilatory, for I know  
not how long M. Libri may  
have had it. I shall write  
to you again when I have  
read it, which I shall <sup>do</sup> im-  
mediately, & with the highest  
interests, for your sake who  
are the foreigners that I  
most

most esteem & regard in  
the world & for his, whom  
I knew longer & better &  
'till the last few years,  
loved more than any other  
man alive. I was as long  
& as confidentially connec-  
ted with the Duke of Wellington  
- but he was already a  
great man before I knew <sup>him</sup>, &  
his position & employment,  
rendered our intercourse not  
<sup>so</sup> frequent & <sup>life</sup> familiar; but  
with Peel I lived as a brother  
from his first entry into  
life, and either saw him or  
corresponded with him every  
week

week of our  
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of Wilking  
already a  
I know, &  
employment,  
course not  
ition; but  
as a brother  
try into  
him on  
him every  
week

week of our lives - in a com-  
munity of political & an  
identity of personal feelings.  
By a lucky accident, no rival  
my was permitted to be  
for I was already Secretary  
of the Admiralty, the only  
office, I ever held or would  
consent to hold, even before  
Peel came into partitionment, &  
those who knew his character  
istic cautious, used to attribute  
but something of his early  
& constant affection for me  
to his knowing that I not  
only never could be in his  
way, but, still more impor-  
tant, that I should never  
need

need a favour from him.  
This sort of selfishness, or ego-  
ism, as you French call it,  
of keeping himself indefin-  
-dant & clear of personal em-  
-barassments was one of the  
deeper springs of his whole  
character; and I must needs  
confess that whatever other claims  
I might have to the intimate  
friendship which I have no  
doubt he felt for me beyond  
any man out of his own fa-  
-mily, it was a very principal  
one that I was not likely to put  
that friendship to any ques-  
-tion. I know not that he was  
ever suspected of any irreg-  
-ularity of money. Certainly

no man that I ever knew had to all ap-  
pearances & in ordinary circumstances a  
sounder, soberer character & I might almost  
say calmer intellect than Peel - to suspects  
him of any mental irregularity would have  
seemed as absurd as old Stephenson's paradox  
that ice might be made serve for coal; but  
in some of his crises as he ascended into the  
higher regions of politics, particularly when  
he became first minister he had fits of  
anxiety & despondency bordering on insa-  
nity, which alarmed & astonished Lady Peel  
& me & the two or three other intimate friends  
who happened to witness any of these parox-  
ysms. He often talked to me in a despond-

way of the sudden deaths of first  
ministers & leading states men whom  
we had both known. In his first ministry  
in 1835 he mentioned these mental disturbances  
to me & was inclined to attribute them to "that  
mysterious malady - the gout" of which he  
spoke with a strange alarm. It was then that  
I began to <sup>be</sup> recollect that I had heard that there  
was some eccentricity in his mother's family  
(the Gates) and it was said that she had  
died after a long seclusion from society  
and some of them that I knew were certain  
by very odd people. His own next brother  
William was for some years in confinement  
and tho' much recovered is still retired from

from the world - his second son William a  
sea Captain exhibited at Sebastopol a degree  
of not merely brassery but during which  
looked like absolute insanity, for it was  
often without any possible object but a  
frantic exhibition - at least so I have  
been told by eye witnesses; and their very  
days newspaper contains a kind of two



Monsieur Guizot  
Rue de la Harpe & Coignac  
&  
Paris



ture delivered before some country audience  
by the young Sir Robert, which seems to me  
doubtless mad & which indeed has prompted  
the train of thought which I have just opened  
to you. Ever affectionately Yours  
Shaker