

[Accueil](#)[Revenir à l'accueil](#)[Collection](#)[Les correspondances de François Guizot : 1806-1874](#)[Collection180_181_Correspondance entre Sarah Austin et François Guizot : 1840-1867](#)[Collection180_Lettres de Sarah Austin : 1840-1867](#)[ItemQueen Square, Oct. 9, 1845, Sarah Austin à François Guizot](#)

Queen Square, Oct. 9, 1845, Sarah Austin à François Guizot

Auteurs : Austin, Sarah (1793-1867)

Les folios

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

6 Fichier(s)

Les mots clés

[Discours du for intérieur](#), [Femme \(de lettres\)](#), [Femme \(mariage\)](#), [Femme \(portrait\)](#), [Femme \(statut social\)](#), [France \(1830-1848, Monarchie de Juillet\)](#), [Ministère des affaires étrangères \(France\)](#), [Réception \(Guizot\)](#)

Relations entre les lettres

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

Présentation

Date1845-10-09

GenreCorrespondance

Editeur de la ficheMarie Dupond & Association François Guizot, projet EMAN (Thalim, CNRS-ENS-Sorbonne nouvelle)

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Marie Dupond & Association François Guizot, projet EMAN (Thalim, CNRS-ENS-Sorbonne nouvelle)

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Informations éditoriales

DestinataireGuizot, François (1787-1874)

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Lieu de rédactionLondres (Angleterre)

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11
8 Queen Square. Oct^r 9th 1845

It is impossible for me to express, dear Sir
with what feelings I read your letter. It has
been a constant & very just reproach against
me that I am so subject to be strongly
moved, & I can truly say that I have seldom
been more so than now. You will perhaps
understand how, in this state of mind,
my first impulse was to say to you,
"I will look for nobody - except me - for who
will love them as I shall?" I went, indeed I
read the first sentence, half flattered myself
that you were going to honour me ~~by~~ with
a request I should value above a coronet.
(What a ridiculous comparison! but I mean
above what are called honours.)
Half an hour's reflection, however, showed
me the impracticability of my dream. The
woman who undertakes this charge ought
to have no other earthly duty, & I dare
not think though perhaps not irreconcilable
(for there is nothing my husband would
not do for your family) would present
difficulties. A still more serious objection
is, my own incompetency, which I then

when restored to ^{my more sober} ~~calm~~ & humbler
senses, I profoundly felt, and which
even your kind & flattering words do not
convince from me, that I should put into
such a business all my heart & all my
conscience, you will believe; & so far I
should not be surpassed - hardly perhaps
equalled; but my solicitude would be
greater than is good where perfect equi-
vinity is so important.

It may seem to you ridiculous to discuss
a question which is not "before the house,"
but I would have you know that it has
long formed the subject of my meditations
- at least thus far - "If this dear revered
Grandmother is taken away, could I
be of any use?" How often I have longed
to say this to you - how often been res-
trained by delicacy! I, a stranger, almost
a stranger, how could I pretend to come
before old friends & connections? I should
never have spoken, if you had not, but
now let me say this - I will use the
greatest zeal & diligence in searching for
a fit person for so dear & great a charge,

but then
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but should I not succeed immediately, or should the experiment fail, or in what should the moment arrive when the beloved child you want a maternal friend, promise me, dear Sir, that you will send for me as you would for a sister (excuse the assumption) & allow me the happiness & honour of supplying the want till it can be better filled. You know our circumstances & our sentiments. We are, in our small way, perfectly independent, & we have no taste for any other distinction than that of being, if possible, helpers of the just & good. There is no position I should think so honourable as being the care of your children & for an emergency, till better could be found, I should expect you to grant it me. I need not ask my husband's approbation because I know his heart & I know I have it without asking. I am not wanted here - nor indeed anywhere - & I should be so proud of nothing as to think you wanted me. Dear how enough - time this is not practical, & is rather an offensive de iure than an answer to your letter. Only, if the time comes, do not forget it.

In many respects you are, I think, right
in wishing for an English woman. They are
generally steady to their principles, & reason
should ~~the~~ even serenity of manner & sense
else to be seen. In the best & most refined
examples this is combined with a graceful
dignity, ~~when~~ the result is a fine specimen of
womanly ^{delightment} But with these merits they are apt
to combine pedantry, attachment to certain
forms, narrowness ^{of mind}, & an unexpansive temper.
We must not have this for our dear
warm hearted girls - who are, & must be,
French women. If I enquire among the
pious (such as the excellent Mr & Mrs. Stephen
of the Colonial Office ~~address~~) then we fall into
the danger of having a bigot - that will not
do. Still less will I take the recommendation
of people of the world; who would send me
a lady with "fashionable manners". These women
are not generally corrupt - that is not
common - but empty & hard. Among the
persons whose judgment would help me in
Lady Lansdowne - good, pure, noble & tender
to the last fibre of her heart. Her I will
write to. At several periods of my life I have
known 2 or 3 women whom I could have
recommended. At this moment, I know no one.

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He must be a gentlewoman, in the best
subject sense of the word - but, I think,
not a person fallen from higher fortunes
(as many are who take such situations)
They are rather melancholy & repining, or to
avail themselves of the opportunity to play
the fine lady - And that we will not have
Among the numerous class of dappled
daughters or widows, I think there is the
best chance. Their position is that of gentle
women, without being wealthy or fine.
The danger there, is narrow Church of England
ism, & a want of knowledge of the world.
They live mostly in the country. The excellent
Mr. Milman may be of use & will not
be of disuse - which is saying a good deal.
I must leave you for the present to
write to him - Indeed I have said long
enough than enough.

I am writing with simplicity for a letter
to tell me I may cross the Channel, though
indeed your's give me a motive for
deciding to stay. I will not leave
England till I have put this matter
in a train - As there is no immediate

hurry we must be unmistakable &
make an exact & deliberate choice
Pardon me the presumption of the
we will appreciate it by my anxious
& affectionate yet for the dear children!

I am going to trouble you once
more about my measures. I come
again with a load of books rather
"Remains of a former World." Will you
defend me against the terrible Goussier
of Boulogne. I will not cheat you. But
I am not fit to do battle with them
now. Formerly I did with mind it at all.
M. de Bonaparte was very much our
friend at Strasbourg. Indeed I can't tell
you how polite he was.

I remain, dear Sir, Accept my
best & most earnest thanks. You
have done me a great favour & he
greatest. You have made me feel as if
I were of some use to those whom it
is a happiness & a glory to serve.
I shall meet you
Yours faithfully & affectionately
J. Austin