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Weybridge, May 19, 1853, 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

[Amis et relations](#), [France \(1852-1870, Second Empire\)](#), [histoire](#), [Portrait](#)

Relations entre les lettres

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

Présentation

Date1853-05-19

GenreCorrespondance

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Informations éditoriales

DestinataireGuizot, François (1787-1874)

Lieu de destinationVal-Richer (France)

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Lieu de rédactionWeybridge (Angleterre)

Notice créée par [Marie Dupond](#) Notice créée le 24/10/2024 Dernière modification le 02/04/2025

I will not have you think that this letter is a mere reply to yours, dear Monsieur Guizot. of that I write only because you ask me. I had my head - not to mention my heart full of sorrow. I wanted to say to you before your arrival. But I was moving from place to place & waited till I should come to an anchor. In my own letter just received. And now here I am, & God be praised, now that I am here, I feel that I have gained ground & that I do things I could not do when I left. Do not think me childish enough to be deluded by this partial amendment but I accept it for what it is with deep gratitude. I am less helpless & less troublesome, & that is a great gain. Judge of the degree to which my courage has returned with the return of strength - I say to myself that it is no longer impossible that

I may see Val Richer. In fact
he says yes, that is the one, the only
one, which I dare even to think of
if ever I can go to see you &
the dear children it will be the great
event of my life, to be earnestly,
incomparably pleased for & to savour
with a full content. I don't ask
if you will have me - I know you
will. I want to see the matron
children & their babies - & to have
in my mind the whole group
of dear ones. I understand, dear his
some anxiety about those whom
"imagination, talents, position, ex-
pose to public life, where public life
can hardly be said to exist. I have
always thought it one of the most
difficult problems for a man to
solve - when to cease to hold him-
self at the service of his country
or rather, (for that, amicus patrie, would
admit of no doubt) of those who govern
his country - when he personal consid-
eration which he risks or loses, & outweigh
by the public services he can render.
(Your children have the best guides - know

patriotism, & you of course
you may leave them
to your guidance, with
Love, surely there are limits
by which public life
must tend to diminish
civilization. I have
I was full of the thought
to you - and why. The
just read in the Acad-
admirable view of the
France & the Bonaparte
pleasant que je vous
bution - mais elle est
just me fault. I expressed
enough is, that not those
had dispatched to the
answers to his calling.
de Remusat's article, or
I did not retract some
condemnation of the call
I said that I was neither
convinced, & in giving
had used almost the
in your essay. M. de P.
that the French had no
government, it is not
of the authors of the
nothing but that a
condition of social &
justly observe) & that
ever be violent & crim-

nationalism, & you are ample. With these
you may leave them to their own heads
& God's guidance, without much sympathy.
To be sure, there are perils of another sort,
by which public life in France is kept
out - they tend to diminish with advan-
cing civilization. I have told you that
I was full of the project of writing
to you - and why. Because I had
just read in the Assembly Nat^l an
admirable view of the relations between
France & the Bonapartes. You know very
pleasant, as persons of your own sym-
pathy - would all up to the present. I intended
just me faint. L'exprimer. Met is old
enough is, that not three days before, I
had dispatched to Mr. St. Hilary an
answer to his enquiry, how I liked
de Remusat's article on Burke, & whether
I did not retract some of my severe
condemnations of the earlier revolutionists.
I said that I was neither convinced nor
convinced, & in giving my reasons, I
had used almost the very words I have
in your essay. M. de Remusat's apology
that the French had no traditions of free
government, is not sufficient. The project
of the authors of the Revolution went to
nothing but that a change in all the
conditions of social life (as you so
justly observe) & that project must
ever be insane & criminally presumptuous.

No such idea ever prevailed here, as
you know better than any body - except
in the heads of a handful of fanatics,
& I confess that I think the name of
"the first Rebellion" ~~was~~ better suited
to that of Revolution.
You may be sure that I shall read
every line ~~that~~ you write on that subject
with two-fold interest.
Have you, best of friends, for you kind
wishes for my dear children's welfare.
I have had a long conversation of the
subject with a very faithful friend -
Lord Montagu - who knows the Treasury
well. He is much vexed about it & says
neither of Mr Gladstone's P.S. I can earn
their salt - so that he cannot explain it.
However, Mr G. has done so admirably
well for the country that we are
all his debtors, & forget our private
grievs. I am sure you rejoice at the
honourable & prosperous course of the
Ministry. My husband thinks it by
far the best that England ever pos-
sessed. It is consolatory to see so
quiet, consistent & dignified a course
as that of Lord Aberdeen crowned with
such universal honour - without a single
compromise or a single clap-net.
Lord Aberdeen looks old & worn, but
content. Now that the Duke is gone he stands
first in the reverential affections of the people

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I hope him yesterday at Mr Thomas's
lecture & you see how this poor
letter has wandered about the world
with me. I came to town to see or
rather to be seen by my doctors, &
ventured for the first time into a
room where several persons were
assembled. Mr Thomas has a numerous
audience of fine ladies & what is
more he has Hallam, Grote & Macanby
I think he may be content. I have
just written for him a letter of in-
troduction to the Society of Trinity, who
has views on Cambridge & I wish they
may be successful. I need not tell
you that I have helped him to the
extent of my poor ability.

I return tomorrow to Highbridge
I wanted to tell you along history
of the cause & thanks that have
retarded this worthless letter - but they
w^d only serve to retard it longer -
& you will believe on my word that
I have never for a moment ceased
to wish to write.

My kindest love to the dear young
one. My husband has been ill but
is better. He often talks of you. I have
how accurately to remember all your
conversations, & how constantly he quotes you.
I have left your letter at home

this lovely weather.
 God bless you & yours dearest Sir & Friend
 Yours affly etc
 S. Austin

I forgot to say, that my father's friend and
uncle, Mr. W. is well.

Ch. 14

Monticlar

M. Guizot

Mr. Wm. L. Garrison, C
 100 N. 2nd St.
 New York, N.Y.
 1852

May 19. 1853
31 Chester Terrace - Regent's Park
(to which house my Brother had removed
from his large & desolate house at Kensington)