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Weybridge, Feb. 27, 1858, 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

[Femme \(de lettres\)](#), [France \(1852-1870, Second Empire\)](#), [Lecture](#), [Politique \(Angleterre\)](#), [Réseau social et politique](#)

Relations entre les lettres

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

Présentation

Date1858-02-27

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Editeur de la ficheMarie Dupond & Association François Guizot, projet EMAN
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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 30/04/2025

74. Weybridge 27 Feb 1851

Dear Monsieur Guizot
You will not find I
have the pretensions to
you need. I am well. But I think
from other quarters. But I think
of you is. I am impatiently waiting
such a long time to talk
with you, that it is impossible
to keep silence. How much has
occurred! What blunders of
both sides of the Channel. What
strange turns & counter-
actions. I was in London all last
week - at the house of my dear
young friend, the Baroness
wife. He has all the anxiety of
a young & conscientious man
of course. He debated his
with great interest. I was in
opposition - in fact, I was the
opposition. But at the first
of all I refused to be

about India. I thought, & so
does my husband, that none
was so grave & momentous
a measure as the abolition of
the greatest corporation the
world ever saw, proposed with
such a total absence of all
argument & of all decency.
Lord P's speech was despicable
& null. Sir E. Baring's speech
was intolerant & most mis-
chievous. Nobody gave any
good & sufficient reason why
the Company should be abolished
to give place to a Council,
why must either be a mere
farce, or a must be the direct
under another name. There
may be evil & improvement,
I dare say there are - but, as
Bentin said, "they diminish have
established, but cause whatever
it & heated it with the most
indecent flippancy. I hope you
read the debate on this question

as well as the other. I am not
but think they would interest
you. The poor man struck into
the gentleman's speech of an old
soldier & administrator, Col.
Sykes. Did you read the Com-
petition? It is not a very
notable document?

Then as to Lord P's other bill
(you would regard it). I am not
given to political prophecy,
but I said to C. Heyington, as soon
as his first reading passed to
that large majority. This bill
never go over quietly. If I
knew the British people, there
will be a great agitation about
this. It is just the insupportable
point. He did not believe me,
on Friday we dined at Lord
Downe's house & were all
quietly talking in the drawing
room what the opposition had
said. You might have been long
days that before. I was
the most affectionate of all.

heard in the House. That is
saying a great deal. But it
was certainly very distressing
a work of not hardly to be
expected from the laxest man
in Eng^d who passes his life
in yachting. I am sure you
read Gladstone's with interest.
And now what became of
L^d P^l's boasted imperturbable
temper? Was there ever a more
pitiable exhibition of vulgar
impotent rage & mortification?
Were not the consequences
so grave & so doubtful, one
would be delighted - but
the state of parties, it seems
to make any other efficient
government impossible, & renders
it difficult to rejoice. I was
staying a few days at Keen's
He is so entirely acquiescent to the
late ministers that I cease to
expect ~~any~~ conformity in our
feelings & notions. I never could

head in the clouds. That is
saying a great deal. But it
was certainly very different
a sort of not hardly to be
expected from the laziest man
in Eng^d who passes his life
in yachting. I am sure you
saw Gladstone's with interest.
And now what became of
J.P.'s boasted imperturbable
temper? Was there ever a more
pitiable exhibition of vulgar
impotent rage & justification?
There not the consequences
so grave & so doubtful, one
would be delighted - but
the shake of parties, to whom
to make any other efficient
Government impossible, render
it difficult to rejoice. I was
staying a few days at Kew.
He is so entirely agreeable to the
late ministers that there is
expectation of conformity in our
feelings & actions. I am sure

21
understands why or how he
changed his convictions. I
suppose, under the delirious
influence of flattery. However
he is deeply set in to his old
friendships & true beliefs.
I am sure. He & his wife live
in a whirl that would turn
stronger heads than mine. This
dear Mr. Guizot is, as you know
only for you. Henry felt as
he ought about L. Normanby's
book. That he does with some
to feel is the very best share of
Mr. Gladstone in the matter. If
he might so easily have been
lost - the book has fallen dead,
rotten, & is a relic of a
dead & I have however a
very curious extract of a letter
to a friend of mine, containing
all the details of the escape of
the King & Queen, from an eye
witness. And all these details,
printed by order of the Queen,

it deposited in the Foreign
Office, and it has in his
hands when he wrote that
issue of Standard & other
lies. All this patent belief
& I can never believe the man
who makes himself solitaire
of such acts.

My husband hopes you
will read Lord Grey's book.
What he wrote to me about it
is this: "The special parts more
than make up for the defects
in the statement of the generals.
It is the work of a discerning
& experienced politician &
what is more of a good & great
officer." He told Lord Melbourne
"I like Lord Grey because he is an
aristocrat, which is far of
you are. Most true aristocrats
are what we most want.
We have plenty of courtiers
of the mob." By the bye I am glad

to hear that Lord Grey is much
improved, & turns out a very
kind & cheerful in office.
I saw Lord Brougham. He
was in a state of great ex-
citement & seemed opposed to war
with France. I cannot believe
anything to a steady mind.
You will not employ a man
to force us to admit the writing
of St. Malo. He speaks of the
Glorious nor the address of
your Colonels. These literary pe-
ructions may surely stand upon
their own merits. You had better
be hardly a casual belief.
Do I think war with France
of all calamities the worst?
I hope nothing will be laid
upon him to irritate either
your God or people. Perhaps I
said before. It is very unwise
to touch a place so instantly
makes John Bull reactive &
irritable. I had a letter yesterday
from my dear young friend
Anne de Rohan writing to

thoroughly a half promised visit
to let. If any tempting com-
panions should start up I
think I must once more
cross the Channel. How long
do you remain in Paris this
spring? I very much miss my dear
Berriette for a charming
letter. I need not repeat
how much of my heart is
with you all. I have had a
very poor winter - but I am
now a good deal better. My
husband is quite well, my
children too. I have no words
to tell you. Life glides on rapidly
on & I live upon the recollection
of past times & dear friends
absent - in this world or an-
ther. You, dearest Sir, will
as long as I have sense or
memory, remain among the
most loved, most honoured
of those whom it has been my
happiness to know. God bless you
& yours I affect S. Austin.