

Versailles Sunday 7 March
1824

My dear Hill



Having just received intelligence from
Grattan that his brother in law is about to start
at a short notice for your rural village, I
am enabled to thank you, which I do most
cordially, for your prompt compliance with my
request, for the full information you gave me, &
the considerate manner in which you trans-
mitted your letter. Its contents have decided
me to have nothing to do with the proposed ex-
hibition, which had reference to Pompeii, & I have
therefore contented myself with writing a review of
Mazois' Pompeii which I send to Longman's
by this opportunity for the next Edinburgh, if they
choose to accept it. — Grattan returned last
Tuesday from a flying visit to London, where he
has been with Colburns for the second



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Volume of his Highways & Byways - I have read the
alls - there are 2 Tals - the Bear Hunter, & the 'Vouée
au Blanc, the former of which is excellent, the latter but
so so. I met Washington Irving rather long at
Paris who declares he has little or nothing for the
press, tho' he is collecting materials for a Novel - I
am so little at Paris that I really rarely see Perry
but heard of him thro' Mrs. Kersey, whose sister keeps
a boarding House at Chaillot where it seems a Mrs
Smith applied for reception, stating herself I believe to
be a widow, but some circumstances in her conduct
exciting suspicion she was watched, & discovered to be
a particular friend of Perry's - About a month ago
I dined with the latter who seems to have some gay
chaps about him, & I suppose is enjoying himself
à la mode de Papa -

I had no idea that your Copper
Concerns could keep you so closely confined, but
whenever you do come across we shall of course see
you, our present plan being Boulogne till the
Autumn, & then probably England - I say I have
for the present postponed, not abandoned, & if you per-
severe in your intention should be most happy
to accompany you. We are all quite well except
Eliza, whose nose continues to give her great

annoyance. St. Roman's Well I do not much like - the
2 first Volumes being extremely tedious & trifling, just to
bump out the quantity, & the third tho' interesting not
very natural - Still it is a wonderful production for
one who has written so fast & so much, & abounds
in characters, slight & sketchy, but not one of them
a repetition of himself - Scott is a wonderful fellow,
if the public will go on receiving such little
tattle as the 2 first Vols of Roman's Well, it is
obvious that he may go on writing to eternity -

The Westminster is a ponderous
Concern & I should think would not
be lost - I have pressing applications
also to write for the Cambridge new
Quarterly, but have declined -

I hope Duby's Wife & family are
better - remember us most kindly to them -
My Wife joins in most cordial remembrance
to yourself with

My dear Will

SHR

Your sincere friend
Horatio Smith -