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To Hyppolite de St Antoine

8 Jan 1840

Jany 8 1840. --

Sr. --

I am afraid if I were to write to you in French -- I should make some mistakes & so you must excuse me for addressing you in English.

I beg you will present to the African Society my sincere thanks for the honor they have intended me

I should not like to be a member of a Society whose objects are so important without actively cooperating in their honorable Labors -- & I am so old & so infirm that I must keep myself quiet, and avoid all sorts of activity in operation, or Cooperation -- for these reasons I must beg to decline the honor offerd to me which I do with every feeling of respect, and with the most sincere good Wishes for the success of the African Association.

I have the honor to be Sr your very obedient humble Sert

Sydney Smith --

56. Green St Grosvenor Square

a Mr Hyppolite de St Antoine --

Addressed: A Mr M Hyppolite de St Anthoine / Institut D Afrique / Secretariat /

Place Vendome / Paris -- / 18 --

continued .....