

211
1095
To Abraham Hayward

8 Jan 1844.

Bowood, Jan. 8, 1844.

Dear Hayward,

Many thanks for your goodnature. From the opposite principle, the Dean has sent me all the American abuse. They call me a Minor Canon eighty-five years of age, an ass, and a Xantippe, mistaking evidently the sex of that termagant person. The truth is, that neither Macaulay nor Croker are like the falls of Niagara. Macaulay is always rising instead of falling, and Croker has ceased to fall because he can fall no lower than he has done already. We have had a very agreeable party here. I return on Monday.

Ever truly yours,

Sydney Smith.

Text from Henry E. Carlisle (ed). A Selection from the Correspondence of Abraham Hayward, Q.C. (Murray, 1886), I, 99. The letter was printed in Hayward's essay on Sydney Smith, in Selected Essays (1878), I, p. 51.

Carlisle prefaces the letter with the following explanation. 'In 1840 the State of Pennsylvania was declared insolvent. In November 1843, Sydney Smith published in the Morning Chronicle his amusing letters on the Pennsylvanian Repudiation. The Americans were very angry at these letters, and their Press accused him in the coarsest language of being exclusively actuated by interested motives. This was a mistake. Mr. Hayward sent him some American papers taking his side of the Repudiation question, and received in reply the following letter....'