

## August Wilhelm von Schlegel an Juliet Smith Göttingen, [Sommer 1790]

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[1] Madam

You will excuse, I hope, my troubling you so soon with another letter after my last. The occasion for it is yours Sons last letter to Mr. Smith, which accidentally fell into my hands, he having left the first copy of it open lying open in his room.

I scarce should think it ~~was to m~~ necessary to mention any thing about what he writes concerning me, because I may be sure You will not judge against me by his misrepresentation of matters without having made further enquiries. But as You and Mr. Smith live so distant from this place, and as his letter might give you the idea, that he is living <sup>here</sup> without ~~your~~ <sup>any</sup> inspection, I hope I need not fear your mis-ber a mis-interpre<sup>pre</sup>tation, being misunderstood by you, when I lay bef~~or~~ candidly before you what I have to answer [2] to his opinion, about a matter which he is not able to judge of.

He thinks I am of no use to him. I forgive easily a young man, who likes more to live without a governor than with one. The reason why he thinks so is because I take and from the beginning have taken care to let him feel his dependance as little as possible. What can be obtained by gentle means, I would not use harsh ones to obtain it - friendly advices and admonitions I gave him continually, reproofs only, when it was not to be avoided.

I need not be afraid of talking to you about ~~You spare not~~ Your sons failings, Madam - You called him extremely indolent ~~and~~ he is so indeed and therefore wants somebody to ~~exact~~ excite him to constant occupation. Let him answer for himself if he has not been much more diligent since I live again with him, than during [3] the time I was at Hannover.

As to his acquaintances, I know very well ~~the~~ <sup>with what</sup> people <sup>he converses</sup> ~~he converses with~~, though I am find it not necessary to accompany him ~~always in his leisure hours~~ when he goes to see them. Till now I have not had any occasion to confront him ~~on~~ <sup>in</sup> this respect, but if he ~~form~~ should happen to form bad connexions, I quickly should put an end to them. If ~~When~~ he is ~~not~~ more in my company, it is his own fault - he knows I am almost constantly at home in his leisure hours before supper It would be a very easy thing to chain him to my side - but then it cannot be thought fit, that I should run after him where he pleases; he must stay at home as long I do, and only walk and see people when I chose to do so.

[4] If you think the liberty I have allowed him to great for his ~~pleasure~~ <sup>age</sup>, I shall restrain it immediately according to your pleasure.

Let me add one remark more on this point, Madam, and pardon me when I fatigue Your ~~impatience~~ - It is of no importance to me ~~to give up when~~ <sup>to remain in the</sup> my charge ~~whenever~~ You have honoured me with, but it is ~~not~~ <sup>by no means</sup> indifferent ~~to me~~ if You thi and Mr. Smith think I have fulfilled it like an honest man or not.

It is quite another thing, when a Young man is ~~left~~ <sup>allowed</sup> to go out alone in his leisure hours, living without a governor, or having a governor who regulates his expences. The principal ~~tyes~~ <sup>of connexion</sup> friendship between ~~young-studen~~ students of the wilder class, are expensive diversions - riding, gaming, ~~dr~~ extravagance [5] in dress etc. Where the liberty of partaking in such diversions is wanting, no close connexion can be formed. I all [g]ive your son as much for pocket money as I think sufficient for little occasional wants. For the rest you know, I keep his accounts myself and deliver them at the end of

every month to Mr. Heyne.

Your son mentions something about my repeating lectures with him – I must say I engaged myself not properly to be his instructor but his governor, else it would have been unnecessary to send him to a place where plenty of instruction of all kinds is to be had – yet I have give given him lessons from the beginning and continue so still. Mr Gatterers Geographical lecture I repeated with him in the first part of the semester, especially because he then had some difficulty of-to understanding it on account of the lan[6]guage; for besides the matters were so easy that they wanted no further explanation. At the end I left off the lecture entirely because Mr. Gatterer then went so quick in his descriptions of the countries that it was impossible to set down a regular extract for repetition.

My absence of some days from Your son is scarce worth mentioning – Yet I pass it not over in silence, that You may see I can fairly answer every thing he says. There There had been a tumult of some journeymen in the town at Goett. – but it was entirely appeased the a day before I went away-away, by some cavalry posted in the town; there remained only a discontentment frø of the students who thought themselves insulted.. Mr Smith had nothing to act for my<sup>him</sup>self, he being in none of those connexions, by which [7] many students been were obliged to take part in the complaint to the magistrates

Let me conclude my letter, Madam by with the highest-expressions of the highest esteem fo-tow for You and Mr Smith. I deserved not from Your son this essay of røbbing depriving me of yours for my endeavours to make his life as pleasant to him and at the same time as answerable to your wishes as possible. Let me add, that in my engagements with You there is no mention made of a fixed period of time You will make me leave Young Mr Smith by the least hint that you wish me to do so. I claim the same liberty for me so far, that I-shall-give whenever I chuse not to stay longer with him, I shall give you warning soon enough to make other regulations. I am

[8] [leer]

### **Namen**

Gatterer, Johann Christoph

Heyne, Christian Gottlob

Smith, George

Smith, George Thomas

### **Orte**

Göttingen

Hannover

### **Bemerkungen**

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Textverlust durch Heftung

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