

Carlyle's French Revolution,
a very masterly book, too, in its
way.

How are you off for Commandments?
Here is one.

What young ladies fought at
the battle of Salamis?

~~The~~ Preposterous solution -
The - Miss - Tocles.

(It will scarcely be credited that
the funeral Thémistocles is here
alluded to)

Jokes.

The other day I was rolling
the grass in our garden. The
Governor pops his head out of
window "Whos' that?" says he
Its "I - sir, rolling ~~my~~ rapidly?"

Says I; making a bague attempt
to quote "Hohenlinden"

Monday Morning
August 25th

1856

My dear Horace - ^{Smith} I am
indeed sorry that I should
have allowed your last (but one)
to remain unanswered. I have been
going to, (ouch is Maui!) for
some time, and at last, instigated
by the receipt of yours of this
morning, have made up my mind
to do so; though I am rather
less in a letter-writing mood than
a porcupine.

All great poets, my dear
friend, have begun by being
imitators: therefore I say nothing
of the amalgam of Sturgeson
Lorp fellow, w^{ch} I have upstair
in a table-drawer - Don't
think me harsh. If I did

but know that you could
do something better, I
should not challenge such and
invidious tasks as blowing up
your poems. But I have seen,
that whenever you throw off
~~all~~ all inclination to imitate
other poets, you always succeed.
Vide - "One of the Lowest"
I do not return the Sailor
Boy now. If you want it, tell
me, & I will send it back to you
directly -

The time approaches when we
are to meet, ^{in the classic papers}
of the Cam. I shall not have
rooms ^{in College} at all wants, till
Christmas. I hope I shall not
be far from College; it
won't be half so long.
About our old K. C. & friends

I heard from Luard the
other day. He seems to be very
happy in the little village of
Aldborough. Do you know, I
think Crabbe a very much
(you know he was born at Aldborough)
under-rated poet. His
some, but parts of his "Poems"
are very exquisite. What say
you?

I hear from Elderton this
morning: asking me to visit him
at Hindley Heath on the
10th of next month. I shall
certainly accept, I think -
I do not know what has become
of Rowse - I have heard nothing
of him, this age -

I am reading Gibbon's
Roman Empire; and am
intensely interested in it -
I have also been doing

(Old joke) - A very tall young man telling a friend that he was intended for the Church; his friend replied, looking up to him; "I should have thought you were intended for the Steeple."

Todgers' Table Talk.

Our housemaid was good enough to inform ~~us~~ we yesterday, that she considered Henry VIII, & the Winter Tale two of the weakest of Shakespeare's plays - Rather good, wasn't it. One does not expect literary criticism for twelve pounds a year.

This is not a bad conundrum. "Where was Knives when the Candle went out?"

I wish you were in London;
to see "Medea" at the
Olympic, with me. It is quite
wonderful, in Robinson's acting.

Perfectly original; & reaching
the very top of sublimity.

Do you ever see the papers?

There has been a great row
about The Traveller & The Suburban
being immoral. Certainly the
parts of both pieces are most
execrable - & not to be endured.

Write to us again soon, &
tell us, what you are doing,
both in the way of work
& amusement - Mathematics
& Poetry. I have been writing
a little myself - an essay

on "The Theatre as an
element of ^{popular} education" among
other things. You shall see it
some day.

Excuse this vile scrawl -
I am not very well; & that
means, as I said before, in
a letter writing mood.

Ever yours
Dear Horace,

Alfred Ayres