

[July 1844]

My Dear Mr. [Name]

What answer could I have given to the envelope than the one I did give verbally to you man (who presented it at 2 eleven o'clock at night on Tuesday) viz that it seemed to me to require none you will see on re-perusal whether I am right.

To your note of day (which is more explicit) all I can say is that I have no wishes or desires whatever on the subject which ought to prevent you from adopting at once whatever strikes you as the fittest to forward your book.

as to any fear of "compromising me" don't let that annoy you — my cloth protects me from pistol shot besides it is I who ought to call out Thank J.

It would be more business like were you to write in propria persona both to Mr Clise and the other — I fear the latter at least may have thought so and hence disdained to answer me.

Painters and poets are all exact people apt to take umbrage at imaginary offenses. Mac is so much of his time with lady Sykes that I have not seen him this month.

[Father Proud] Yr. J. Mahony



PAID  
4  
1850

Dear Sir  
Wm. Hamlin  
Wm. Hamlin

Kendal Lodge  
century  
harrow road,



2160  
D-11/6/24 0-150

F. L. Pleaswell

PLEASWELL  
COLLECTION  
HONOLULU

[JULY 7, 1836]

My dear Ainsworth

What answer could I have given to the enclosed than the one I did give verbally to your man (who presented it at Eleven o'clock at night on tuesday) viz that it seemed to me to require none you will see on reperusal whether I am right.

to your note of [to-] day (which is more explicit) all I can say is that I have no wishes or desires whatever on the subject which ought to prevent you from adopting at once whatever strikes you as the fittest to forward your book

as to any fear of compromising me don't let that annoy you - my cloth protects me from pistol shot[s] besides it is I who ought to call out Thack y.

It would be more business like were you to write in propria persona both to McClise and Thackeray - I fear the latter at least may have thought so and hence disdained to answer me.

Painters and poets are all cract people apt to take umbrage at imaginary offenses. Mac is so much of his time with lady Sykes that I have not seen him this month

Yrs

F Mahony

Wm Harrison Ainsworth Esq  
Kendal Lodge harrow road  
cemetery

The letter is not dated, but the Post Office mark indicates that it is July 7, 1836.

The quotations which follow are taken from "The Showman of Vanity Fair The Life of William Makepiece Thackeray" by Lionel Stevenson, Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1947.

"A few weeks later [Spring of 1836] after he had returned to Paris, he [Thackeray] received overtures for his services as illustrator to another popular novelist. The next book by Harrison Ainsworth, Crichton, was to be laid largely in Paris; and Father Prout [Francis Mahony], who was helping Ainsworth with the details of local color, recommended his friend Thackeray as being well qualified to make the drawings. Ainsworth sent suggestions to Thackeray, and the publisher, Macrone, forwarded the proof sheets of the book; but the drawings were not forthcoming. . . . By the beginning of July Ainsworth made up his mind that he would rather have the book illustrated by Daniel Maclise. Consequently Father Prout was placed in an awkward position. . . . Thackeray's failure to provide the drawings was probably caused chiefly by mental disturbance over his love affair. [with Isabella Shawe]. (65)