F. G. Smith — Quai aux Violettes July 2nd

My dear Pattisson GEND (Ghent) Belgium — 1821.

I received your kind letter on Friday last, and am much obliged for the long description of your proceedings of Cambridge: they were as you may well suppose most interesting to me, & more particularly so as both you & Sergeant have succeeded so well — I hope the reference I made in my last to your political principles was not displeasing, but if I were to draw my conclusion from your last letter I should be at a loss to decide. For in that you have been very severe upon our friend O.S. who was my informer as to your rapid progress in Radicalism — And well knowing that we had often joked you & Robley upon your violent antimonarchical principles, I thought the occasion gave me a very good opportunity for renewing the joke, which I hope was not displeasing to you. As to what you say respecting O.S. I think of it very just, since doubtless he will allow no [illegible] however advantageous in the event, if proposed by the Whigs, to have been undertaken with a good purpose, on the contrary every thing that is taken in hand by the [illegible] tho' it may prove most injurious to the state was [illegible] assayed from the best motives — Should you finally determine to visit the continent this summer [illegible] will without doubt remain in England till after the [illegible] vation, & endeavour to see as much as possible. I scarcely [illegible] see an English newspaper but from the few which have [illegible] in my way England seems quite alive in consequence of the approaching ceremony. I regret much not being in England [illegible] perhaps all things considered it is as well, since it will [illegible] totally impossible that the curiosity of all shall be gratified [illegible] perhaps in the crowd there will be much mischief done —

Ghent Belgium — Francis Grosvenor Smith Esqre

2nd July 1821.

GEND

William Henry Pattisson Esq

William Esq

England

Pd. Jy. 7 1821

Jy. 7 1821

[illegible] my kind compliments to your Mother Father & Mother [illegible] wishing you health & pleasure & whatever place [illegible] [illegible] a Son & this summer

Believe me [illegible]

Your Son Sincerely Attached Friend

Francis Grosvenor Smith

[illegible] morning till evening. What I mentioned in my last to [illegible] relative to our leaving Ghent will not I believe take place. [illegible] that unless you hear any thing to the contrary from you may continue to direct your letters as usual. In one of my walks this Ghent [illegible] Mr Hornbuckle, & Calvert & another Cambridge Quai [illegible] whose name I do not know. I wanted them to stay a few days [illegible] Hornbuckle said he was sorry he could not since they were [illegible] continue their journey as the following morning —

last Sunday week I witnessed one of the grandest religious
fêtes of the Catholics the "Fête Dieu." The Feast a peculiar cust
the morning at St Bavo the Cathedral church of the town where
performed high mass after which all the civil authorities of
Ghent accompanied with a numerous train of military
assembled at the church door. The several charity schools
the town were arranged in the street through which the
procession was shortly immediately after its leaving the
They each had an appropriate banner in order to join the
At half past ten it began to leave the church: it was preceded
by about a hundred & fifty men bearing large wax lights
their hands, they were succeeded by 250 priests singing
after these came 12 angels in their grand robes, who
succeeded by the Bishop carrying the host. then were
priest who carried a most elegant canopy over the
of the Bishop. 8 eight boys in rich dresses continually
flung incense over the host, on each side of which
carried nineteen most elegant lamps on long poles.
whole procession was closed by the chief people of the
& a numerous band of military. In the market
again there was an altar erected, in order that the
on his arrival there might sing and shew the host
the public in general. I had a very good situation
opposite the altar from whence I could distinctly
their proceedings. When the Bishop displayed the host
high, all the populace immediately fell upon their
& the military grounded their arms. It was rather an
impressive sight, yet it failed to excite
the horrid ceremonies which have been inflicted
the Catholics. It is indeed a surprising thing that

suffer themselves to be made such dupes of the priests, & imagine
that by paying them for their prayers they shall obtain eternal
salvation without their own exertions. — In commemoration
of the ever memorable battle of Waterloo the English had a ball
held at the Park Royale. — We assembled at about 9 past
& continued dancing till past three the following morning.
During the evening I met with a young man who was in the
during the battle, who said that the roar of the cannon was
extremely audible in this place. I must confess that I should
not like to have been in his situation, for I should have been
afraid least the English should lose the battle, when I must
almost inevitably have fallen into the hands of the French.
There is at present an Aloe in bloom in the Botanical
Garden in Ghent, which I believe is reckoned among Botanists
a great curiosity. I have been there several times lately
purpose to say I have seen it examined since in a pale first
state & another in bloom, as they say it only
in a century, after which the plant dies, than from
accounts of its beauty. I know nothing better to liken the
stem to, than a head of asparagus. It has only one head of
which springs from the common centre of the leaves.
Instead of following their curved direction rises in a
perpendicular line to a very great height. The people say
as it does it will be more than twelve feet high, as it has
not now any thing at present. ~~only that~~ We have
indeed think about seven feet high & increases daily
at that period it may reach the height they say. The
Botanical Garden of Ghent is very well worth notice &
would be a most advantageous thing for any person who
is pursuing that study. There is a specimen of Calycanth.
any plant in the Linnæan System, arranged & kept in
good order. The Garden is open for the accommodation of the