95.00
£5.5.8

St Aubin, Saturday Aug 16, '73

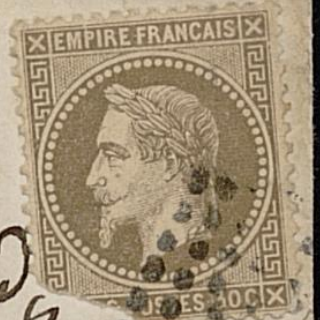
Dearest Annie, I was thinking, & not for the first time, how incon=
=ceivably slow you were in replying to my letter, when the reply,
in which I have a part, came — really to my great joy. I wish
that Greenbank were, as you figure it, rolled alongside of our
house here; you should do more than look over the wall, I promise
you. The feeling of the place you would like; its quiet, simplicity,
and the exceeding freshness of it; such an open land and un=
=obstructed sea: but you could walk nowhere, except on the sands
after a monotonous fashion, or in the fields, which have not a bit
more variety. We made one pleasant excursion, however, last
Tuesday to Fontaine Henrie, Grouchy, and St Gabriel — three delightful
places, old, older, and oldest. This last, an old Priory, with appendages
in a ruinous state, I suppose one might buy for a trifle, and, for
a moderate sum, repair and complete as a wonderful dwelling place.
The castle of Grouchy — a delicious nice — was sold a few years ago for
£400. In England, such places to sell and prices to pay would be too
absurd even to dream about. But here, they have quite other predilections.
And who would comfortably build, live and die in the middle of aliens?
All your papers arrive safely, and are properly valued: the provincialism
you gave Gillespie's article was not lost on me: I believe the dear
old man is stiffish in the intellectual joints, but he hops his distance
sturdily, and I am quite satisfied with his good intentions = in the
Spectator which came yesterday, somebody repeated that foolish lie that
I called Lord Byron a "flatfish" = How are the practices of your more

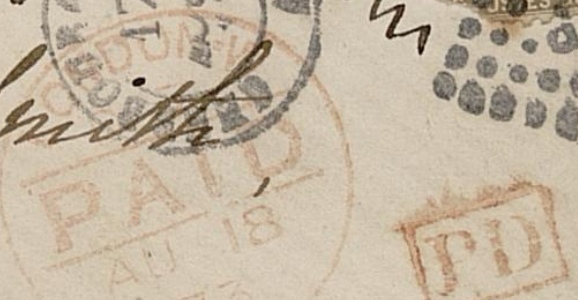
lively article-mongers, who tell these lies, like Austin, for the malice rather than the fun of the thing. I never said nor wrote a word against or about Byron's poetry or power in my life: but I did say, that, if he were in earnest and preferred being with the sea & appreciating with mankind, he would do well to stay with the sea's population: thereby simply taking him at his word, had it been honest — whereas it was altogether dishonest, seeing that nobody cared so much about the opinions of mankind, and deferred to them, than he who was thus boasting and pretending to despise them. Well, I am glad to hear news from Italy: since poor Isa left off writing, I have no means of getting informed about friends there. I wonder whether you will come to France: it is no use saying, what is simply true, that I should rejoice to meet you here — you know what obstacles are in the way. We have been just a fortnight here, — earlier than last time, — which may oblige us to spin out the week or two after the departure of Shelley and — that is, after we have left this place in his company, as we apparently shall. He gives us uneasiness by a sort of rheumatic affection & lameness in the leg — it is better, and, I hope, about to leave him: but still it hinders his walking. Now, Annie, I must go & take advantage of the tide and bathe: the weather is brilliant, the sea warm as new milk: it agrees with me altogether: I think I did well to get away early from London. And not run down so absolutely low: there is less to recover, you see. I am sitting writing this, in my bathing-dress, — one step removed from the cool custody of the Piazza with a. Do write at once, and a good long letter. Do you now look in at our house, Warwick C.°? I have no news from Pen since he was with the Brewsters. I suppose he has no wonderful feats to tell of — judging by the reports in the papers. Bathed, returned, & once affectionately adieu! Robert Browning.

Dt. St. Aubin
Aug. 16/73

Angleterre

Answered from London
Aug. 26/73





Miss Egerton Smith
Greenbank.
Notting Hill.
W. Mr. RB & Mrs B.
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