Appendix 6: Málaga and After: Selections from Bodleian Library MS. Eng. lett. b.4 40476

Kemble retained a number of documents from the Spanish Expedition that were not bound into the Letter Album (Appendix 1). Some of these made their way into the Bodleian Library where they were mounted and described:


The exact provenance of these letters is hard to establish but may be similar to that of the Letter Album itself (see Introduction to Appendix 1). After his return to England in May, Kemble redirected his energies to his philological studies and tried to minimize his continued involvement with the campaign in Gibraltar. But his correspondents felt the urgency of notifying him after the executions in Málaga. The spontaneity of these letters exists in the original Spanish as well, and they are charged with grief. Some of the accounts of Torrijos’s entrapment contain details hitherto unknown. And the report in letter 4 of Francisca’s new affiliation after Boyd’s death confirms Kemble’s sense of her vulnerability. Kemble preserved these letters as part of the final chapter of the record of the Spanish Expedition.


My dear John,

This letter will be delivered to you by two brother revolutionists to whom I trust you will be as attentive as possible. They are Mr. John Kemble & Mr. Lorenzo

May 9th 1831

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Calderon who was wounded at the attack on the Spanish lines—They proceed from this in the Blonde & I have no doubt as they [are] particular friends of mine that you will shew them every kindness in your power—By way of reciprocity I hope to pay the same civility & kindness to you or y' acquaintance should they shortly favor me with a visit at Madrid—I will say no more at present as my friends will tell you all the news of the day concerning me & my prospects.

Every me dear Jack Y' affec't brother

Rob't Boyd

p.s. By the time that the St Vincent arrives at Gibraltar I hope to be battling in the holy cause, away "far beyond the mountains."  

2. 60r. Robert Boyd to Henry Glynn [copy]. 4 10 December 1831. [Málaga to Gibraltar].

Copy  
Convento del Carmen 6  
10th Decb' 1831  
Midnight

My dear Harry [Henry]

Before this reaches you, you will have lost a friend who was sincerely attached to you. The preparation for death is going on, and in two short hours "Life's fitful fever["] will be terminated. The clanging of chains is ringing in my ear & those harbingers of disaster, beings clad in the livery of the grave are flitting before me up and down the refectory of the convent where I write from. Surrounded am I by them pestering me to recant, but as my faith is a peculiar one and as my sins such as they are, cannot be absolved through their mediation, I feel it unnecessary to say to you how I wish any report as to a change of tenets to be contradicted. I have sent about 160 dollars to the English Consul. Think sometimes of your old crony—I have yet some friends in Gibraltar and

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3 From Byron's "Stanzas to the River Po."
5 Written on the recto of the leaf bearing letter 9, below, presumably in the hand of Henry Glynn. Another copy of this letter is in the Coningham family papers, SPRI / National Maritime Museum / Papers of Captain Fitzjames MS 77/009 MRF/89/1 “Letters from James Fitzjames to the Coningham family.” Still another is printed in W. Boyd Carpenter, Some Pages of My Life (London: Williams and Norgate, 1911), pp. 101–2.
6 The former Convent of San Andrés became a Carmelite monastery in the district of El Perchel of Málaga. It is visible in the background of Gisbert's painting. Today it adjoins the Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.