

Excerpt of autograph letter signed from Percy Bysshe Shelley to Thomas Love Peacock, 12 July 1820.

“... Nothing I think shews the generous cullibility of the English nation more than their having adopted her sacred Majesty as the heroine of the day, in spite of all their own prejudices & bigotry – I, for my part of course wish no harm to happen to her, even if she has as I firmly believe amused herself in a manner rather indecorous with any courier or Baron. But I cannot help adverting to it as one of the absurdities of royalty that a vulgar woman with all those low tastes which prejudice considers as vices, and a person whose habits & manners everyone would shun in private life, without any redeeming virtues ~~of a~~ should be turned into a heroine because she is a Queen – or as a collateral reason because her husband is a king & he no less than his ministers are so odious that every thing how ever disgusting which is opposed to them is admirable. The ~~par~~ Paris paper which I take in copies some excellent remarks ~~by~~ from the Examiner about it – ...”

Note: the image presented in the blog post is digitally excerpted; the original 3 ¼ page double sheet letter remains intact as Pforzheimer Manuscript (PBS 0062).