

To Thomas Carlyle

date [early July 1827]¹
from Edinburgh

My Dear Sir

I am very gratified by your note, and will not let you wait till Saturday to learn that I am not at all frightened at your Teutonic fire - and shall receive your larger exposition of the faith that is in you, with all respect and thankfulness - I feel at once that you are a man of Genius - and of original character and right heart - and shall be proud and happy to know more of you - I fairly tell you that I think your taste vicious in some points - and your opinions of the real value and talents of your German idols erroneous² - But I know I am very ignorant of them - and think I can say with truth that I am neither bigotted nor intolerant - It will be a real pleasure to me to discuss these matters with a person of your intelligence candour and good temper - and I make no doubt that the result will be far more to my advantage than yours

I wish I had leisure to enter upon it now - But I pass my days in a fever of frivolous occupations which must appear very absurd and unnatural to you - and of which - tho' I bear it gaily - I perhaps do not think very differently — By and bye however I shall have more time to myself - and it is a serious disappointment to me to find that you are going to leave this neighbourhood just as my holidays begin —

If I can possibly get away from the court by 3 o'clock tomorrow, Mrs J. and I will call at your house - when I hope we may arrange some longer meeting - In the mean time

Believe me always
Your obliged and Faithful
E. Jeffrey

92 Geo. St
Thursday Evg

National Library of Scotland MS. 787, f. 1.

1. Pencil marking on the document in the National Library of Scotland declares this the "Earliest of the Jeffrey Letters", dating it "?July 1827", but the familiarity of this letter and the reference in the former letter to Carlyle's article on Richter make their order less clear cut — even if, as David Alec Wilson writes, this one "cannot be later than the beginning of July" (Wilson, II, 28).
2. *your opinions . . . erroneous* this disapproval of the 'Germanic' – of what Jeffrey sees as its intellectual and emotional exaggerations and affectations – is reiterated throughout his letters to Carlyle.