

Mr

Sheffield 21<sup>st</sup> Feb 1841

You shew yourself a man - and a cricket.  
Write a critique on *Viria Perpetua*, by Sarah Flower  
Adams, Lizzy's sister - call it a Lecture on the Modern  
Drama - and shout it to the voices of mortals, in  
our holy Chapel of Pedicidism. Perhaps, Tail would  
accept it - and you might shout it afterwards.

I would give my ears (and you know they  
are long ones,) to be the author of the last two acts of  
this play - they are really fine, and there are some  
pathetic passages towards the close. I wish I could  
draw characters.

I am Sir, Yours very truly

Edmund Spenser



February 24<sup>th</sup> 1841

M. W. Fowler

3578-

From  
C. H. Williamson  
Sydney



D Sir

Sheffield 24th Feby 1841

Now shew yourself a man - and a cricket. Write a critique on Vivia Perpetua by Sarah Flower Adams, Lizzie's sister - call it a Lecture on the Modern Drama - and spout it to the wisest of mortals, in our holy Chapel of Radicalism. Perhaps Tait would accept it - and you might spout it afterwards.

I would give my ears (and you know they are long ones) to be the author of the last two acts of this play - they are really fine; and there are some pathetic passages towards the close. Sarah can draw characters.

I am D Sir Yours very truly

Mr John Fowler

Ebenezer Elliott

=====  
Ebenezer Elliott(1781-1849) was the "corn-law rhymer", an uncompromising opponent of what he called the "bread law". Sarah Flower Adams(1805-1848) wrote "Vivia Perpetua", a dramatic poem in 1841, but she is better known for her hymns, notably, "Nearer my God to thee". "Lizzie" was her sister Eliza Flower (1803-46) musical composer. Willaim Tait(1793-1864) was the publisher and proprietor of Tait's Edinburgh Magazine, a literary and radical publication to which Mill, Cobden, and Bright contributed

"Wordsworth speaks highly of "Corn Law Rhymes". He says: "None of us have done better than he has in his best, though there is a deal of stuff arising from his hatred of existing things. Like Byron, Shelley, &c he looks on much with an evil eye." Wordsworth likes his later writings the best, and mentioned the "Ranter" as containing some fine passages. Elliott has a fine eye for nature. He is an extraordinary man." (Reminiscences of Henry Crabb Robinson, vol 11, page 223)

(Collection of Captain F. L. Pleadwell)

61 HOWITT (William, Author) An Interesting Series of Thirteen A.Lrs.s. (one has had the signature cut out), 42 pp., 8vo, 1844-50, all to John Fowler, two of the letters refer to Ebenezer Elliott, £1 5s

"Some time ago somebody sent me an article from the Sheffield 'Independent' on Ebenezer Elliott, in which it said that I claimed to have introduced Elliott's work to Southey, and that the fact was, he was well acquainted with the Poems before and with Elliott too. I suppose you wrote this article, and therefore I now write to you to say that the statement in the 'Independent' was not correct. What I stated in my article in the 'Homes and Haunts of the Poets' was simply this. That I gave Wordsworth, who happened to be at my house, 'the Corn-Law Rhymes,' and that he handed them over to Southey, who immediately gave a notice of them in the quarterly," etc.

217 ELLIOTT (Ebenezer, Corn Law Rhymer)  
The Gypsy, an old Legend modernized,  
THE ORIGINAL AUTOGRAPH MANUSCRIPT  
of this poem written on 16 pp., folio, dedi-  
cated to John Fowler, Gt. Houghton, nr.  
Barnsley, full calf, blind tooled, £6/10/-  
[M.I.] 1844