

Mr. John Raw

Spencer

L. J.
Mr B
Mr T
J. A.
Mr Deane
Mr Pearson
Mr Collett

13168(6)

Woodbridge 9th Mo. 1st 1817

My dear friend

Good and sufficient are the reasons assign'd for declining the speculation: but as some time must elapse before the Ballad can appear in any other shape, and no man likes to spend time and labour for nothing I have another proposition to make, dependant of course on thy approbation.

I could wish to have a few copies of this Ballad to distribute among some friends: but I have no wish to add to thy Expenses already incur'd in the Business by imposing on thy politeness the printing of them gratuitously, and as they are to give away I cannot afford to pay for publishing "con amore". I believe however if the MS. be return'd, or rather lent me, I can prevail on our cheap printer here, Smith, to print them gratis, on my finding him 2 Quires of Paper. as the circulation of 48 copies, which will not be exposed to sale, can in no way interfere with any future use thou mayst incline to make of

the Ballad, and as its printer is one with whom all ideas of competition, implied by such transactions, are wholly out of the question, I can see no cause of objection: if any should exist tell me so candidly. The smallness of the impression must prove that it is only intended for private circulation, in the literal meaning of the term, and will I think be advantageous rather than otherwise to its future appearance.

The fact is I cannot find room for the thing in my volumes were I so disposed; and some of the subscribers to that, wish for a copy of these stanzas: and, this being the case, I of course wish to oblige them.

Tell Letitia I am much obliged by her polite and elegant note; as she declines the honors proffered her, she must share them with Orwell's Daughters in the aggregate; as I have profusely '2 a doz. "Dedicatory Stanzas" to them" in mass" - and if the publication, on the plan proposed, be admitted, I will thank her, in addition to Lev over same, to furnish me with those of ten or a dozen of the most graceful, accomplish'd, interesting, - but a true

to epithets? I hope she will pick out at least that Number of fair Patronesses to whom I may convey, through her, a copy each - of course she will keep a Poet's secret.

And now, my good friend, I have frankly stated my wishes, it is for thee to decide how far they are compatible with thy views and interests; I should be sorry to urge them if they are otherwise; but I shall be gratified by having the favor granted if it can be done.

respectfully B.B.

If my proposition be acceded to let the M.S. be sent me this evening by Girling - Smith is out to day, so I have not seen him, but if he will not do this job on my terms, I will return the M.S. -