

Jan'y 5/88

Dear Mr Clayton

I am very much obliged to you for the comments on 'Sunday'. Much against my will I agree with them all.

The piece is already shov'd away & will probably never be revised, or see the light again unless in the shape of "Extracts from Sunday a blank verse Effort of '87"!! in the vol 2 (which has not even been bought, by the way).

Your recommendation to include nothing but the best being an effective receipt for barrenness.

It is awfully kind of you to take so much trouble over my Th.S. I think there is no harder task than reading holograph papers.

In the face of this I want to send you (when finished) a short tale which I am writing for the next meeting of our Society. It is strictly apropos. Our subject has something to do with Italian ~~papers~~ articles. The next meeting will deal with Dutch do. (Clarkson's Hobby.)

So I have thrown my story between the two. (NB. I will bring it up in the rough & if you don't mind, get you opinion on it & adopt your suggestions before finishing. In this case I must read it myself unless you will run the risk of getting cross-eyed.)

There is a couplet in Locke which well describes our relative position —

"His maxims were true, their words forsooth
The wisdom of age, the folly of Youth".

Can you recommend me a good optimistic
book. I am getting awfully disgusted
with every thing & I am on the side to
sit down to Blackguard Society - right or left
the only hindrance being that I lack the
power. I put above down to Brighton,
Dreaghers, & want of cash. The following
ratio. B. 3. T. 3. I. 4.

I hope to get a day off on Saturday week
to visit the metropolis & see the 'Old sword'
do you want Otton's swordsmith?

You are rather too hard on England. He is
well meaning enough, & I should imagine is

a ~~difficult~~ job to find some individual
entirely able writing of a man you know.

There is a ~~little~~ Criticism of Foster's Life of
Dickens I expect you have heard -

'The life of John Foster with a little of
Dickens'. H. K. make a deity of R. B.

It is funny how all these writers on the
latter select the same plums. What
a lot of pudding must be left!

"Enclosed is a small tract - 'dear friend'."
M. E. B.

It is not a tract - but a pamphlet & might well
be suppressed. There is a story of a Derby
boy who was dying asked his doctor if
he had any chance of recovery. ~~He~~ ^{He} ~~trav~~
"There are ninety nine chances out of a hundred"

against." he replied. "Then go a like
Hell in the hundredth" said the boy &
he pulled round. Mr DO Bonser might
take the tale to that little heart he as.
Still the theory holds good to old people -
Nov 150. The all sounds inconsistent

to one who has read something about
'These old folks can calmly croak' etc.
But that was a jeu d'esprit -

You say nothing about the description of
the parson, which I took some pains on.
nor do you speak of the quality of my
'chopped prose' and 'black verse'. Will you?
So you were on the side of the sheep. I must

send Molly or one of the kids to say
"Will father be a goat.?"

The P.M.J. warned me off Rosetta's heat
I shall let Moore slide. I don't warm
to him much myself. The beggar has
such a confounded long tongue, is so servile
to his wife, & spoiled a tête à tête walk
with you which I had looked forward to
for a week. Therefore he, at present, has
not my prayers.

With kindest regards to all

Edward Thomas

P.S. This is but the 5th of the month & I
am 2 days behind with my diary!!