

375.

Kewick. 20 Oct. 1832

Madam

I wish applications like yours were as uncommon as you have supposed them to be, & that it were in my power to reply to them in a manner less painful to myself, & more satisfactory to them.

It is not in my power either to do what you wish, or to get it done. Circumstances which it is not necessary to explain made it necessary for me, as soon as the Quarterly Review obtained a high reputation, to form a resolution of never reviewing of contemporary poetry. Not long before a resolution was taken to have the extra range of offerings many of my acquaintance, & some of my friends. - I have no control whatever over that Review; & the title of the work is such that not one book is less of them, such an untidy notice, can possibly be noticed there.

But indeed what any review can do for a volume of poems is at the best very little indeed. Except under very peculiar circumstances, there is no general rule for poetry; every poet feels this to his cost; every bookseller knows, & every publisher acts upon it. For any sale beyond the immediate circle of the authors friends, a book must be introduced

London 20th Oct 1832

Mrs Anne

Wickham

Wickham

Wickham

Wickham



to the exertions of those who will interest themselves in recommending it. In  
former times Mr Brae's services would have needed no such assistance.

I wish I could have given you better hopes - Accept however my  
best wishes, unavailing as they are, & believe me

Madam

Your obedient servant

Robert Southey.

