

To John Raw

Woodbridge 8<sup>th</sup> Mo. 29<sup>th</sup> 1817

My dear Friend

I have received the Song enclosed in Loder's parcel, and the accompanying note, by the tenor of the latter I am a little uncertain of the destiny of my Ballad, and therefore take the liberty of sending this to enquire about it, and to offer a few suggestions as to the best mode of turning it to account: they will cost thee but fourpence if not acted upon, and if they should meet thy views may save thee more.

To the insertion of the Ballad in the collection of Suffolk Poetry I see no objection, even after a preliminary publication of it; because if I understand the nature of that collection a piece having been printed before may still be admissible, not at all the less so from having had a prior but local circulation. But as the Song received this morning strikes me as being, even more than my Ballad, a very inadequate commemoration of such an event, and as the theme is one which must now excite more interest than it will do at a remote period, when the Suffolk Poetry may be expected to make its appearance; I should, I think, be disposed to publish a shilling or eightpenny edition of it now: if judiciously shewn out with notes, an account of the Launch itself, a preface &c and handsomely got up, its sale would probably be considerable. I think I could furnish thee with a lively, piquante, sort of preface; which might authorize thee to pick thy neighbour's pockets of 1/6 or even 2s. with a tolerable grace, at the latter price it is only one halfpenny or strange. between the Bard who would have his Poetry sold for less — The Song already printed, with the

necessary accompaniment of its own <sup>referring</sup> Notes, to those parts  
which are not alluded to in the Ballad, so as not to  
interfere with the annotations on the latter, would be  
no bad tail-piece. and the vignette already executed might  
perhaps be of service again, unless a print of the Ship  
could be cheaply procured. If you want anything more  
to swell it out, what think you of a bold stroke? a  
few dedications stanzas to Mrs Cobbold! I never saw the  
Lady it is true but she is what may be term'd an  
eulogizable sort of personage; that is to say she has  
said, done, and written enough, to be thus address'd.

Of the whole of my scheme, I am now  
well content to leave the decision to thyself, with <sup>great</sup> much  
more solicitude; only, as some of my acquaintances  
were aware of the probability of some stanzas of  
mine being forthcoming on this occasion, I shall  
perhaps in their estimation pass for the author of  
the Song, an honour which I am not peculiarly  
anxious to obtain, although the alternative, of being  
known as the writer of the Ballad, is far enough  
from being a seductive or enviable distinction; still,  
on a choice of evils, I would rather father the one  
than the other.

I am respectfully

Tell Letitia, if she in the  
least grudges Mrs Cobbold the

thy aff<sup>o</sup> for.

honor of a dedication, she shall have it herself.

of course I do not mean she should "bear her blushing honours" in  
"propria persona", but if she will consent to be immortalized in verse,  
I will try my hand. I wish she would let me.