

3 Gloucester road  
Old Brompton  
5<sup>th</sup> July 1854.

My dear Dillon,

You have asked me to give you a letter to place with your little autograph collection; and I do not know who would more willingly comply with any request of yours than myself.

But permit me to tell you in writing, what I believe I have before verbally stated to you, that although I think your Dramatic Register a little book of some interest, yet I also think you have done wisely to discontinue it, if only for the reasons you have given in the last Number; However, as you are illustrating the letters you have received and receive on this subject

subject with portraits, I present you with the one of myself by Maclise which was sketched by him about two years before you were born.

Maclise's Lithograph from his Sketch appeared in Fraser's Magazine for February 1831, when I was rather a younger man than I am at this present writing. The Sketch I remember perfectly was made by Maclise at the Sun Inn, Barnes, somewhere about the close of 1829. We were then, both of us in bad health; and I invited him to come and idle with me for a few days there.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> March 1830, I was married at Barnes to your Mother.

And on the 26<sup>th</sup> August 1831, your  
our only child, were born in a very  
small

small Cottage, near a Windmill which I believe no longer exists upon Barnes Common.

Wishing that every Father may have both as to Character and conduct so unexceptionable a son as you are and always have been, but for much of this you are indebted to your Mother's admirable training,

Believe me to be

most sincerely and  
affectionately yours

J. Crofton Croker