

Albemarle Street

Saturday

234

Dear Sir

I inclose a proof - of
your ingenuity & kindness -
- I send the Volume in case you
wish to refer to it - or to peruse
farther - & I have added a
former Volume in order to
send you the gentlemen's com-
pliment encased - It is
thought to peruse some Volume
totally misdirected if not
destroyed by the treachery of
George Hunt - to whom you

J. W. Croker Esq.

will observe that the earlier
volume is dedicated.

It will afford me the most
particular pleasure to congra-
tulate you upon the success
of the honorable & gratifying
object of your present tour
— No day passes with you
without a leap in intellect
& a step in public considera-
tion —

Mr Clifton has written
to me by your order to ask the
reason why the last Adm.

ralty agreement — was not
sent to the J. Jones — this I
have replied to officially — but
and I beg leave to assure that
it was merely from the accident
of my clerk — & I trouble you
with the note I made for me —
I succeeded Clifford —

I have from sections of indi-
vidual duty withdrawn my
own adventures — from a
paper so conducted upon princi-
ples uniformly mercenary &
so of so much public danger —
but this resolution, believe
me I never should have
been so impudent as to have

extended to any person's
wants but my own

When you are elected
will you allow me the
pleasure of bearing the con-
vocation to the papers

I am Dear Sir

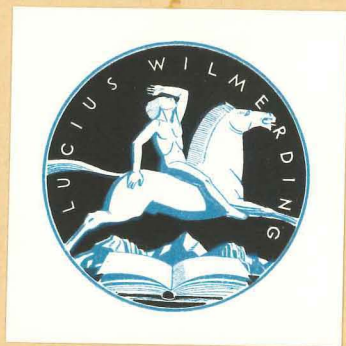
your ever oblig'd

servant

John Murray

MURRAY (J.) RE KEATS' ENDYMION [1818]

430



Murray

Froggaskis & Son
66 Great Russell St
London.

JOHN MURRAY, A. L. S. [April 1818,] to J. W. Croker.

Albemarle Street
Saturday

Dear Sir

I inclose a proof—of your ingenuity & kindness— —I send the Volume in case you wish to refer to it—or to penetrate farther—& I have added a former Volume in order to give you the gentlemans compleat measure—He is thought to possess some talent totally misdirected if not destroyed by the tuition of Leigh Hunt—to whom you [p. 2] will observe that the earlier volume is dedicated.

It will afford me the more particular pleasure to congratulate you upon the success of the honourable & gratifying object of your present tour—No day passes with you without a leap in intellect & a step in public consideration—

x x x

Mr. Clifton has written to me by your order to ask the reason why the last admi-[p. 3] ralty adver[tise]ment—was not sent to the [L]o Times— this I have replied to officially—but [deleted] and I beg leave to answer that it was merely from the accident of my clerk— & I trouble you with the note I made the instant I received Cliffords [sic]—

I have from motives of individual duty withdrawn my own advertisements—from a paper so [deleted] of so much public danger—but this resolution, believe me I never should have been so *impudent* as to have [p. 4] extended to any p[ublic] advertisements but my own

When you are elected will you allow me the pleasure of bearing the announcement to the Papers

I am Dear Sir
Your ever obliged
& faithful Servant
John Murray

ALS, 4 pages. Double sheet, 19.5 x 12.3 cm.

Laid paper. Watermark: portion of intertwined PM above large fleur-de-lis.

Seal removed.

Address: J. W. Croker Esq. (at foot of p. 1)

Provenance: Wilmerding sale, 28 Nov. 1950 (no. 430). In a blue watered silk folder with the Lucius Wilmerding bookplate.

Published by Lyle H. Kendall, Jr., "John Murray to J. W. Croker: An Unpublished Letter on Keats," *Keats-Shelley Journal*, XII (1963), 8-9.

Notes: 1. The "Volume" is *Endymion*, fresh from the press in the spring of 1818; the "former Volume" Keats's *Poems*, which, with the dedication to Leigh Hunt, came out in March 1817. The present letter, then, occasioned John Wilson Croker's review of *Endymion* in the September 1818 *Quarterly Review*.

2. Croker served in Parliament for Downpatrick and Athlone from 1806 to 1818, unsuccessfully (despite Murray's optimism) contested for a seat from Dublin in 1818, and was not returned (for Yarmouth) until the following year.

3. I cannot satisfactorily identify Clifton (Clifford?).

4. Murray's distaste for the *Times* owed as much to the liberalism of its new editor, Thomas Barnes, as to envy of John Walter's financial success as printer and publisher of the *Times*: see *The History of the Times: "The Thunderer" in the Making, 1785-1841* (London, 1935), page 170.

5. Here published by permission of John Murray, 50 Albemarle Street, London, W.1, and Daniel Whitten, Editor, *Keats-Shelley Journal*.

TRANSCRIPT

Albemarle Street,
Saturday.

Dear Sir,

I inclose a proof - of your ingenuity & kindness. I send the Volume in case you wish to refer to it - or to penetrate further - & I have added a former Volume in order to give you the gentlemans compleat measure - He is thought to possess some talent totally misdirected if not destroyed by the tuition of Leigh Hunt - to whom you will observe that the earlier volume is dedicated.

It will offord me the more particular pleasure to congratulate you upon the Success of the honourable & gratifying object of your present tour - No day passes with you without a leap in intellect & a Step in public consideration.

Mr. Clifton has written to me by your order to ask the reason why the last admiralty adver[tise]ment was not sent to the [] Times - This I have replied to officially and I beg leave to assure that it was merely from the accident of my clerk - & I trouble you with the note I made the instant I received Cliffords.

I have from motives of individual duty withdrawn my own advertisements from a paper conducted upon principles infamously mercenary & of so much public danger - but this resolution, believe me I never should have been so impudent as to have extended to any p[] advertisements but my own.

When you are elected will you allow me the pleasure of bearing the announcement to the Papers.

I am Dear Sir

Your ever obliged
& faithful Servant

John Murray.

J. W. Croker Esq.