Sir,

That I may show myself sensible of your favor and to commit the same soundly to record here I make haste to answer the letter which I received this morning. The truth is, the other letter was received, and I read it, an answer, but being desirous to thank you, some proposals and requests, I awaited till I could find a convenient opportunity, and day was passed after day, till other things drew in from my thoughts, yet not so, but that I encountered with great pleasure your commendation of my dictionary. Your praise was welcome not only because I believe it was sincere, but because praise has for me pleasure. A man of your candor will be surprised when I tell you that among all my acquaintances...
Tame these were only two who upon the publi-
when of my book did not incline me to depart me-
with threats of concurs, from the publick, or with
violent learned from those who had Dawed
them from my own pample. Years is the only
letter of goodwill that I have yet received; they
indeed I am promisfd something of that sort from
Sweden.
Now my new edition will be received I
know not, the subscriptions have not been very suc-
cessful. I shall publish about March.
If you can thank me now to fret yourself
I should, that they are in your hands.
I remember, sir, is some of the Pepys letter
with which you promised me, your unbounded gra-
lands. May I inquire after her? In return for the
prizes which you have given me, it is most
To tell you what I wish you and them all
what can contribute to your happiness.
I am
Sir,
Your most obliged
and
most humble servant
Sac. Johnson
George Square
Dec. 24. 17__
To Mr. Barneby L
up at Lynn
Norfolk

No. 2

Dec. 24th, 1757

[Stamp]
SAMUEL JOHNSON, A. L. S., 24 December 1757, to Dr. Charles Burney.

Sir

That I may shew myself sensible of your favours, and not commit the same fault a second time I make haste to answer the letter which I received this morning. The truth is, the other likewise was received, and I wrote an answer, but being desirous to transmit you some proposals and receipts, I waited till I could find a convenient conveyance, and day was passed after day, till other things drove it from my thoughts, yet not so, but that I remember with great pleasure your commendation of my dictionary. Your praise was welcome not only because I believe it was sincere, but because praise has been very scarce. A man of your candour will be surprised when I tell you that among all my acquain-

[p. 2] tance there were only two who upon the publication of my book did not endeavour to depress me with threats of censure from the publick, or with objections learned from those who had learned them from my own preface. Yours is the only letter of good will that I have yet received, though indeed I am promised something of the sort from Sweden.

How my new Edition will be received I know not, the subscription has not been very successful. I shall publish about March.

If you can direct me how to send proposals I should wish that they were in such hands.

I remember, Sir, in some of the first letters with which you fav-
oured me, you mentioned your Lady. May I enquire after her? In return for the favours which you have shewn me, it is not much [p. 3] to tell you that I wish you and her all that can conduce to your happiness.

I am
Sir
Your most obliged
And
most humble servant
Sam: Johnson
Gough Square
Dec. 24, 1757

ALS, 3 pages. Double sheet, 20 x 15.8 cm.
Laid paper. Watermark: large coat of arms.
Seal removed.
Postmarks: Three, all quite faint.
Address: To Mr Burney | at Lynn | Norfolk.
Docket: (top of p. 1) Decr. | 1757; (p. 4) From | Johnson | Decr. 24 | 1757 | No. 2.

Notes: 1. The hiatus in Johnson's correspondence with Burney went back to the latter's letter of 28 March (Memoirs, 1832, I, 124), which brought Johnson six subscriptions to Shakespeare (including Burney's).
2. The "only two" were Thomas Birch, Secretary of the Royal Society, and (probably) Bennet Langton, an original member of The Club.
3. Shakespeare, "my new Edition," was delayed until October 1765.
"Sir, the biographical part of literature is what I love most."
This is one of the finest Johnson letters I have ever seen (except in the collection of my dear friend R. B. Adam) I bought it from Drake in September 1926.

[Signature]

L9A9X7
Sir

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