



Outwards
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Tuesday Evening 1828
Christmas day

We have just got your letter. I think mother Reynolds will go on quietly, Mrs Serimshaw having kitted'd. The name of the late Laureat was Henry James Pys, and when his 1st Birth day Ode came out, which was very poor, some body being ask'd his opinion of it said

And when the Pys was open'd
The birds began to sing
And was not this a dainty dish
To set before the king?

Pys was brother to old Major Pys, and father to Mrs. Annots, and uncle to a General Pys, all friends of Miss Kelly. Pys succeeded Tho. Watson, Watson succeeded Wm. Whitehead, Whitehead succeeded Colley Ciller, Ciller succeeded Eussen, Eussen succeeded Tho. Shadwell, Shadwell succeeded Dryden, Dryden succeeded Darnant, Darnant God knows whom. Does not this read like the 1st Chapt Matthews. There never was a Rogers a Poet Laureat, there is an old living Poet of that name, a Barber as you know author of the Pleasures of Memory, where Moors goes to breakfast in a fine house in the Green Park, but he was never Laureat. So they is the present one, & for any thing I know or care, Moors may succeed him. We have a copy of "Romas" for you, so you may give your own to Mary as soon as you like please. We think you need not have exhibited your mountain shyness before Mr. B. He is neither shy himself, nor patronizes it in other. So with many thanks, Good by. Emma comes on Thursday
C. B.

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The poet laureat, whom Davenant succeeded, was Rafe
"Ben Jonson" who I believe was the first regular laureat
with the appointment of £ 100 a year & a Butt of sack or Canary
so add that to my little list. C. P.

To Mr James.