

Bernard Barton
(1784-1849)

Worcebridge 6/24/1837

Dear Lost

I was out when thy letter came, & have been busy ever since, or I would not have made thee wait so long. Hadst thou made choice of any piece I ever wrote out of the 4 or 500 I have been rash enough to print. I would have given thee the words and welcome to put music to. But the very idea of writing to an air, & who would know a note in music has well nigh scared me out of the few wts of paper you gave me. As I know well enough the Letter I have rec^d is not thy penmanship, and both the hand-writing & the form of its expression lead me to place some reliance on the writer's fact & facts. Pray request thy kind proxy, to tell me whether five & six stanzas, with the same number of syllables in each line and all that is requisite, for I have no more knowledge of your longs & shorts, your quavers, semi-quavers, bars & rests than I have of the Lyric or Chaldean Characters. Any thing I could do to serve thee I would do most heartily but I must first know what is requisite. I have six pieces to write next week for a Child's annual - so pray have all the patience in thy power there
BB

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Woodbridge
Penny Post

Mr John Last

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