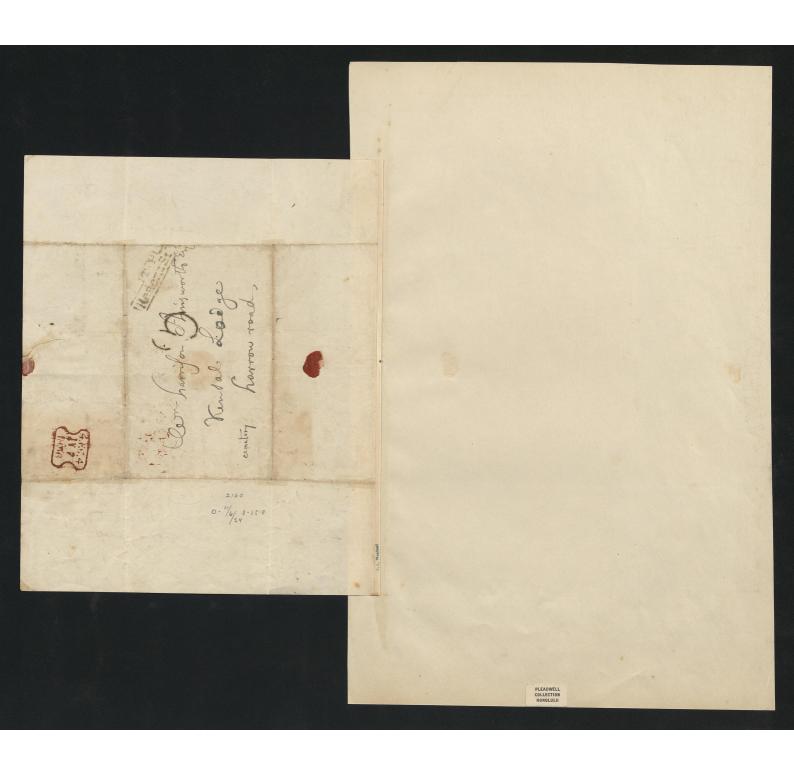
by Real Dripworth what answer could I have given to 1/h endojed han the one I did give verballe to you man (who presente it at Elevenoclock at night you will see In repensal whether I am night. to your note of day (which is more explicit) all I can Say is that I have no wisher or define, whatever on the solice angles to prevent you from adapting or once whatever strikes you as the fittest to forward your book as to any fear of compromisty me' doublet that annoy you my cloth protects me from pastal shot besides it is 9 who ought to call out Thack). to write in propria persona both to m' Clise and theekers - I fear the latter at beart may have thought so and hence dis dained to answer me. Painters and poets an all crack people art to take umbrage at maginar, offenses. mae is so much of his time with lady Sykes
What I have not seen him this month, when you -. I Making



] JULY 7, 1836 My dear Ainsworth What answer could I have given to the enclosed than the one I did give Verbally to your man (who presented it at Eleven o'clock at night on tuesday) viz that it seemed to me to require none you will see on reperusal whether I am right. to your note of [to-] day (which is more explicit) all I can say is that I have no wishes or desires whatever on the subject which ought to prevent you from adopting at once whatever strikes you as the fittest to forward your book as to any fear of compromising me don't let that annoy you - my cloth protects me from pistol shot[s] besides it is I who ought to call out Thack у. It would be more business like were you to write in propria persona both to McClise and thackeray - I fear the latter at least may have thought so and hence disdained to answer me. Painters and poets are all cract people apt to take umbrage at imaginary offenses. Mac is so much of his time with lady Sykes that I have not seen him this month Yrs F Mahony Wm Harrison Ainsworth Esq Kendal Lodge harrow road cemetery The letter is not dated, but the Post Office mark indicates that it is July 7, 1836. The quotations which follow are taken from "The Showman of Vanity Fair The Life of William Makepiece Thackeray" by Lionel Stevenson, Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1947.

"A few weeks later [Spring of 1836] after he had returned to Paris, he [Thackeray] received overtures for his services as illustrator to another popular novelist. The next book by Harrison Ainsworth, Crichton, was to be laid largely in Paris; and Father Prout [Francis Mahony], who was helping Ainsworth with the details of local color, recommended his friend Thackeray as being well qualified to make the drawings. Ainsworth sent suggestions to Thackeray, and the publisher, Macrone, forwarded the proof sheets of the book; but the drawings were not forthcoming. . . By the beginning of July Ainsworth made up his mind that he would rather have the book illustrated by Daniel Maclise. Consequently Father Prout was placed in an awkward position.... Thackeray's failure to provide the drawings was probably caused chiefly by mental disturbance over his love affair. [with Isabella Shawe]. (65)