

Gentlemen, Your obliging letter followed me to the farm
 Partridge. I am engaged to deliver a Course of Six Lectures on
 the principal British Poets, at Huddersfield, to commence about
 the middle of November. This has been settled since I came
 home, and till then I could not properly answer your inquiry.
 Now, that it is not probable on any ground, satisfactory to
 both parties, can be made with your Institution. A single
 Lecture, detached from the connected series, would be of little
 value to your members, beyond an evening's amusement,
 were it amounted to that; and it would not be worth my
 while to incur with the trouble or the expense which it
 would impose upon me. On the other hand, three Lectures,
 the smallest price that I could expect to make in Huddersfield,
 would probably, too costly, on the most moderate terms which
 I could, consistently with the amount of remuneration
 which I have received in other places, ask for delivering that
 number in Leeds. This would be fifteen guineas. Mr Newall,
 Grant Ham, Liddell and Robinson, was compensated
 after that rate, by Mechanics' Institutions; and before general
 Literary Societies, I have received occasionally more than
 twice that amount. Not knowing anything of the circumstances
 of your Institution, I must therefore frankly state, that as I
 cannot pledge myself to an engagement for less, I must be
 with the same frankness to say at once, if in any manner I
 afford some, that the terms don't suit you; for unless
 I can present myself before you with the perfect assurance that you are
 quite able and willing to receive me on these conditions, I must decline

the engagement altogether. I am not a professional Lecturer,
nor have I ever read my papers before any Society, without a
Special invitation. I shall not, therefore, feel myself at all
disparaged, much less offended, if this association proceeds no
farther. I only request that you will please to inform me,
at your convenience, what your determination shall be. The
Season when I go to Hull is so late in the year, and the weather
so generally inclement, that, though if the arrangements would
best suit you there, I would submit, it would be more agreeable
to me to visit Leith in the spring of next year, if life and health
be preserved so long, and the circumstances be favourable. There
is a direct communication between Sheffield and Leith, so that
~~there is~~ ^{the} the expense of travelling ~~is not~~ would be more to me,
I should not regard, but goes promptly for the purpose into Lincolnshire.
Now let us consider for me in fluency our decision on either
one point or another of this business, but as your own judgment
(according to your own ^{and the interests of your Institution,} ~~conscience~~)
appears to direct, either conclude the association here or defer
it to a future opportunity.

I am, respectfully,

Your friend &c.

J. Hunt,
Sheffield.

Sept 3, 1840.

J. Montgomery