

Dear Sir. <sup>St Ives. Aug. 13. 1857.</sup> You will perceive I took  
your advice as to bringing Cottage  
Picture into a more fashionable  
form, as it is made in a thoroughly  
amended state part of a volume  
of my select poems, really very  
splendidly brought forth by  
Mr Phillips; and is, I am informed  
doing extremely well. I thank  
you for the hint.

I write this at my native  
place in Huntingdonshire, where  
I have been passing some time for  
change of air (being much out of  
health) with some of the earliest  
friends and neighbours of my youth:  
amongst them with a most innocent  
man and woman, whom in one of the vols  
of Harvest-Home I have attempted to  
describe in a Poem called John & Jane



Dear, simple, natural creatures who  
have known me from Infancy, and  
love me for loves pure sake, with  
all their Hearts & Souls.

It is on their account I am  
induced to trouble you with a letter  
at the present juncture. Their  
Eyes begin to fail them, which  
as they are really pious, is an  
additional grievance, as the usual  
print of their Books of Worship  
"fades" upon the rest "falls" upon their  
eyes. I have promised to present  
them with a Second Hand Quarto  
Bible & Testament, which I bear some  
gratitude for their Souls; and to that  
shrink me your Dear Sir, might  
either furnish or procure me; for  
to st. J. & 2. pay you most thankfully  
when and where you please to  
direct: only I wish it with as

little delay as possible, either sent to  
my Town Apartments, No. 10. Fifth  
Court New Bond, or given to  
the "Bearer of this letter" which I  
send in a Parcel to Town.

And as I shall pass the whole  
of next Month with a Circum-  
navigation, will open  
again indulge me with for about  
5 or 6 Weeks, with Cumberland  
Memories once more, as I could  
like to amuse them with it, & the  
utmost Care shall be  
taken: It may come  
at the same Time.

With a true Sense of your Kindness to  
me,  
I am Dear Sir  
Yr. Obedt. S. J. Pratt.

A parcel will be coming to me in a  
few Days from my Lodgings.



My dear Mother  
I received your kind letter  
of the 10th and was glad  
to hear from you. I am  
well and hope these few  
lines will find you the same.  
I have not much news to  
write at present. I am  
still in the city and  
will be here some time  
longer. I will write again  
soon. Give my love to  
all the folks.  
Your affectionate son,  
John C. Smith

F. L. Mitchell 9/15

Blank page with faint bleed-through from the reverse side.



St Ives. August 13 . 1807.

Dear Sir.

You will perceive I took your advice as to bringing Cottage Picture into a more Fashionable Form, as it is made in a thoroughly <sup>amended</sup> state part of a volume of my select Poems, really very splendidly brought forth by Mr Phillips; and is, I am inform[ed] doing extremely well. I thank you for the hint.

I write this at my native Place in Huntingdonshire, where I have been passing some Time for change of air (being much out of Health) with some of the earliest Friends and neighbours of my youth; amongst others with a most innocent man & woman, whom in one of the Vols of Harvest Home I have attempted to describe in a Poem called John & Dame, Dear simple, natural creatures who have known me from Infancy, and loved me for love's pure sake, with all their Hearts & Souls.

It is on their account I am induced to trouble you with a Lettr at the present moment. Their eyes begin to fail them, which, as they are really pious, is an additional grievance, as the usual print of their books of Worship "fades" tho not "palls" upon their view. I have promised to present them with a Second Hand Quarto Bible & Testament, wch wd be a Banquet for their Souls; and it has struck you Dear Sir, might either furnish or procure one; for wch I wd pay you most thankfully when and where you please to direct; only I wd wish it with as little delay as possible, either sent to my Town Apartment, No 10 Tott<sup>n</sup> Court New Road, or given to the bearer of this Lettr, wch I send in a Parcel to Town.

And as I shall pass the whole of next month with a Circle of ingenious Relations, will you again indulge me for about 5 or 6 weeks, with Cumberland's Memoirs once more, as I would like to amuse them with it, & the utmost care shall be taken. It may come at the same Time with a true sense of your Kindness to me, I am Dear Sir

Yr obliged

J. Lackington Esq  
Finsbury Square

S. J. Pratt

A parcel will be coming to me in a few days from my Lodgings.

If in you can do my Sympathy Vol; the alterations of wch are pointed out in the short General Introduction, I am sure you will.

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Samuel Jackson Pratt (1749-1814), a miscellaneous writer known as "Courtney Melmoth"; also a bookseller at Bath. His father was a brewer and twice high sheriff of the county, his mother a niece of Sir Thomas Drury. He quarrelled with his family through a love affair, and the family was given to contention and litigation. He was ordained, but soon quitted the church, and appeared on the Dublin stage in 1773. Not successful as an actor he turned to literature. He corresponded with Samuel Johnson.