

(3)

Keswick. March 26. 1813.

Sir

I lose no time in replying to your letter. The work that you propose to my consideration is one for which I am not qualified, even if I were disposed to it, or it leisure to undertake it. You have been probably been led to think otherwise, because a life of Nelson by me has been announced. But I was led to attempt this piece of biography as much by ~~unavoidable~~ circumstances which might almost be called accidental, as by the splendour of the subject.

I am Sir

yours &c

Robert Southey.