

Yaltondon in Newbury
Dec. 28. 1901

Dear Sir

Thank you for sending me the
copies of 'Great Thoughts' : I was sorry
that you had any trouble about them.

You will I am afraid have thought
me very discourteous and even intention
in saying nothing in my letter of the
notice of my sale which appeared with
the packet. The truth is that I
did not read it, and I have only
just discovered that you wish it.

These two facts will I hope be enough
to exculpate me from any blame
but that of negligence. Ourselves, if

I had known that I was writing to
the writer of the article, I sh^d have
seen it before writing. I have read
it now and wish to thank you
very sympathetically for the high praise
which you give me; and for the care
with which you performed your task:
which shows a knowledge of my
(some of them) out of the way publications
for which I am really grateful, as
I am unworthily judged of a selected
sample.

I cannot but think that you have
overpraised me. But I know that
allowance is to be made for
such "articles": what the public
will not consume unless they
are somewhat spiced, and ~~that~~
this is the reason why I do not

in a rule read them: or least read
with any care.

I am sending you a copy of its
reprint (with some additions) of my
tract on English Poetry. It is
accompanied by the original paper
of the date with Stone, I beg your
acceptance of it with my personal
thanks for your kindness to my muse
and best wishes.

Believe me yours in love
Robert Burns.

Ed of "Just Thoughts"