

Mr Gurney

March 10 1778

2806

Great Sir,

Every liberal art having, under Your Majesty's auspicious protection, flourished to a degree of eminence, unknown in former reigns; I trust, that your Majesty, who is at once a most consummate judge and a most condescending patron of literary excellence, will not deem the art of short-hand unworthy of Your Royal countenance and encouragement: especially, as it is an art, peculiarly under Your Majesty's own dominion; as being entirely unknown, at present, to any people in the world, except to the subjects of your great Empire.

I therefore, with the most profound humility and devotedness, intrust Your Majesty's gracious permission, to dedicate this yet unpublished and improved edition of my Brachygraphy, to the most amiable and most accomplished Monarch upon earth.

I am, with inexpressible deference,

Southampton Buildings
March the Tenth 1778.

Sir;
Your Majesty's
most dutiful subject
and devoted servant
Joseph Gurney

[Faint, illegible handwriting on aged paper, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side.]