

to Sir William Knighton

March 16 1821

private.

My Dear Sir,

I have at length seen a moment
 to acknowledge your ^{kind} Letter, with the
 Poem which accompanied it. As I had
 nothing very particular to state to you,
 I was unwilling to encroach on your
 time, until I had had a thorough good ex-
 -plicitness of reading over, & of giving the
 whole of my attention to this most beautiful
 Production (of the human mind, perhaps, if
 not the most grand, one of the ^{certainly} ^{very} grandest &
 most elegant at the same time, that we
 any ~~other~~ ^{produced} ^{in our language}
 or in any other. I ~~do~~ ^{do not} but little value upon
~~my~~ ^{my} taste judgment in these matters, but
 as far as my opinion goes Dear Friend, I have

^{propose}
 given ^{to} you, on the preceding few lines; indeed it
 unite, so many things within itself, that I
 scarcely know, how to express myself ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{proper} ^{words}
 or to define the different feelings it has given
 rise to, in my mind & in my Breast. But
 I will venture to you & you alone (from the
 apprehension of expiring myself) to say a few
 words more to you, upon this very very very,
wonderful Poem. It appears to me, that the
 Talent, as well as the Taste of the Author,
 must be seen & read, to be believ'd; it combines
 such an immensity as it were, within itself,
 that if one ventures to express a sentiment,
 one neither knows where to begin, or where to
 end. It appears to me to combine within itself
 entirely (such as it is) all the picturesque
 scenery & imagination of our immortal Shakespeare
 together with all the terrific grandeur of
 Milton & Dante, ~~and~~ ^{and} ^{thus} ^{again}, with all the
 elegant & delicate simplicity of feeling of Gray.

