

TO CHARLES OLLIER

*Pisa, June 16th, 1821*

[...]

The more considerable portion of this work will consist of the *Comment*. I have read with much attention this portion, as well as the verses up to the end of the eighth canto; and I do not hesitate to assure you that the lights which the annotator's labours have thrown on the obscurer parts of the text are such as all foreigners and most Italians would derive an immense additional knowledge of Dante from. They elucidate a great number of the most interesting facts connected with Dante's history and the history of his times, and everywhere bear the mark of a most elegant and accomplished mind. I know that you will not take my opinion on poetry, because I thought my own verses very good, and you find that the public declare them to be unreadable. Show them to Mr. Procter, who is far better qualified to judge than I am; there are certainly passages of great strength and conciseness; indeed, the author has sacrificed everything to represent his original truly in this latter point. Pray observe the beauty of the typography; they are the same types that my "Elegy on Keats" is printed from.