Letter 3d

My Lord

My last concluded with a sort of half-promise: I now proceed to the fulfillment of it, and with as much punctuality as if it had been a whole one. *Sir—you are too good* ... Not at all, my Lord; I will be judged by the Printer, who was the person I had in view. *Indeed, Sir? and nobody else? So you are not read, and it is upon this supposition that you write?* Something like it, my Lord. The reader I am sure of is the Printer: the reader I am not sure of is the gentleman, if there be such a one, who, on petty occasions like the present, has it in charge to read and think for Your Lordship, or at any rate to read.

On the 19th of August indeed, Your Lordship’s own ‘mind’ was to have been ‘applied to the subject’—and that ‘*at all events*’. On the 19th of August Your Lordship’s own ‘endeavours’ were to have been employed to get something settled, and ‘settled before ‘the meeting of Parliament.’ Parliament met the 16th of November: this is the 18th of December: *magna otia cœli* all the time. Yet if Mr Secretary Vansittart is to be believed, Lord Pelham is the Atlas on whose shoulders the world rests, or at least this part of it. Shaken off by these superior shoulders the best that can have happened to it is, that in its fall, it should have been caught by some subordinate ones.

Already, before September was at an end, so teazing was the burr become, with all its lightness, that the time of completion was transferred, from that finite period to another infinite one. The time for ‘sending to’ the man was to be—not as at first before Parliament had met—but after three volumes not expecting any such reading ‘had been read’, and 13 personages not expecting any such conversation had been ‘conversed with’. This is what a Ryot in this country gets by presenting Nuzzeers to Omraks! The Great Mogul, my Lord, would not have served me so. ‘What can I say more?’

After this explanation, confessing hibernianism, and calling in so much of fiction and inconsistency as may be necessary to my aid, I keep on making marks upon paper, just as if any such ‘exalted mind’ as Your Lordship’s were still to be applied to it: just as if any such things as reformation, economy, life, person, property, public faith, parliamentary authority, and so forth, were worth Your Lordship’s notice.