

1036

Jan 19. 1816. The unremitted weather has confined me to the house several days - a ride to Bunker's in an air of two or three times to the shelter of my sheep & visit to the sick of my family. The residue of the time I have spent within doors - my Book & little John my only company, except now & then a Neighbour on business - dreary as the situation is it is not altogether without pleasure - the most has been derived from the immortal Chateaubriand, his late ~~celebrated~~ celebrated work I have read & prefer to parts, which may be read over & over with ~~pleasure~~ increased delight - Turn to Chapter 8 of the second Book, & begin the paragraph at the bottom of Page 384 & read that of the next in succession - Can not you see that Royal Phantoms half raised from their coffins - when the Interrogator is put to them whether they would wish to return to life for the sake of a Crown - they remain in profound silence - they shake their ~~dark~~ ^{dark} heads, whence fall a cloud of dust, their eyes once more close & again lie slowly down, in their coffins - What reflections may be drawn from this on the Emptiness of Grandeur & again when the ^{is interrogated} Humble Rustic, what simplicity & innocence is displayed in the answer - What painting, can you distinctly see each scene - Can't Michael Angelo, Titian, Guido, Raeni, Raphael or Corregio surpass it? Now read the conclusion of this great composition - Beginning with the Paragraph at the bottom of Page 504 - the sublime Pascal will not fail to excite Attention & profound Admiration -

This was intended to go by my Neighbour Sumner but he has delayed setting out so long that I prefer sending it by the mail -

Say to John Lee that 14 or 15 bushels of Clean excellent Flower Seed ready for sale & expect as much more next Week - What can be had in Cash for such in your Town - what for Fat Mutton - Lard or Butter both Salt & fresh - Turnips & Potatoes would freeze on the passage & I fear Apples would meet the same fate -

Don't forget you forgot the Remedy for Scrophulous - the King's - we want much of the sooner the better - that disease has appeared on the land of Shorn & Michael & Pat's family are now