

owing to a little old Jacobite leaven which I sucked in with the numerous traditionary tales that amused my infancy. It is a fortunate thing for the Prince himself that he has a literary turn, since nothing can so effectually relieve the ennui of state and the anxieties of power.

I hope your Lordship intends to give us more of Childe Harold. I was delighted that my friend Jeffrey — for such, in despite of many a feud, literary and political, I always esteem him — has made so handsomely the *amende honorable* for not having discovered in the bud the merit of the flower; and I am happy to understand that the retraction so handsomely made was received with equal liberality. These circumstances may perhaps some day lead you to revisit Scotland, which has a maternal claim upon you, and I need not say what pleasure I should have in returning my personal thanks for the honor you have done me. I am laboring here to contradict an old proverb, and make a silk purse out of a sow's ear, namely, to convert a hare *haugh* and *brae*, of about 100 acres, into a comfortable farm. Now, although I am living in a gardener's hut, and although the adjacent ruins of Melrose have little to tempt one who has seen those of Athens, yet, should you take a tour which is so fashionable at this season, I should be very happy to have an opportunity of introducing you to anything remarkable in my fatherland. My neighbor, Lord Somerville, would, I am sure, readily supply the accommodations which I want, unless you prefer a couch in a closet, which is the utmost hospitality I have at present to offer. The fair, or shall I say the sage, Apreece that was, Lady Davy that is, is soon to show us how much science she leads captive in Sir Humphry; so your Lordship sees, as the citizen's wife says in the farce, "Threadneedle Street has some charms," since they procure us such celebrated visitants. As for me, I would rather cross-question your Lordship about the outside of Parnassus, than learn the nature of the contents of all the other mountains in the world. Pray,