

request your Lordship's acceptance of my best thanks for the flattering communication which you took the trouble to make Mr. Murray on my behalf, and which could not fail to give me the gratification which I am sure you intended. I dare say our worthy bibliopolist overcolored his report of your Lordship's conversation with the Prince Regent, but I owe my thanks to him, nevertheless, for the excuse he has given me for intruding these pages on your Lordship. Wishing you health, spirit, and perseverance, to continue your pilgrimage through the interesting countries which you have still to pass with Childe Harold, I have the honor to be, my Lord, your Lordship's obedient servant,

WALTER SCOTT.

P. S. — Will your Lordship permit me a verbal criticism on Childe Harold, were it only to show I have read his Pilgrimage with attention? "Nuestra Dama de la Pena" means, I suspect, not our Lady of Crime or Punishment, but our Lady of the Cliff; the difference is, I believe, merely in the accentuation of "peña."

Lord Byron's answer was in these terms:—

TO WALTER SCOTT, ESQ., EDINBURGH.

St. JAMES'S STREET, July 6, 1812.

SIR, — I have just been honored with your letter. — I feel sorry that you should have thought it worth while to notice the evil works of my nonage, as the thing is expressed *voluntarily*, and your explanation is too kind not to give me pain. The Satire was written when I was very young and very angry, and fully bent on displaying my wrath and my wit, and now I am haunted by the ghosts of my wholesale assertions. I cannot sufficiently thank you for your praise; and now, waiving myself, let me talk to you of the Prince Regent. He ordered me to be presented to him at a ball: and after some sayings, peculiarly pleasing from royal lips, as to my own attempts, he talked to me of you and your immortalities; he preferred you to every bard past and present, and asked which of your works pleased me most. It was a difficult question. I answered, I