

Thomas Pennant to Richard Bull

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From: Thomas Pennant
To: Richard Bull
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Dear Sir

Downing Jany 30th— 9±2¹

A sudden call my eldest Daughter has to town to her worthy aunt who has long labord under a painful illness enables me to send you the *History of quadrupeds with wooden plates*; & my print. In the first is the drawing of the Whiff.² at the latter end (by mistake) is a letter of the author's:³ be so good as to take it out & return it by post. I send you the print that you may paste it on such paper as inclosed: When returnd moses shall decorate it. If you send for these at 7 o'clock on Thursday evening to M^{rs} Pennants upper Grosvenour street, they will be deliverd to y^r order. If you can push it so as to be deliverd by 3 the next day, It may be brought me by a returning Servant. you are the only one that shall have a copy of this print till it is publish'd.

I was a good deal startled the other day by seeing a poem by mine in a newspaper: I could not account for it: till I recollected I had given copies of my *miscellanies* to Lort & Grose: both their effects were sold: & thus I am given to the public much malgré moy.⁴ I have given also copies of my *literary life*. I have no fear of you nor yrs: but of ~~other~~ the executors of others I may. I shall therefore publish it myself with some droll advertisement. you know I have declared myself dead as an author. so my *literary life* may fairly be publishd. Moses will immediately undertake the Lusty Packingdon.

My Son's want of confidence will prevent his taking your excellent advice but I trust the world will have the sagacity to discover what he will never be forward to disclose. The treasures he brings home will be no small embellishments to my margins.

S^t. Caecilia is a beastly affair: but there is some humour in the Genius.

I rejoice at the reform I have workd among the burial grounds:⁵ I wish I could to the same among the daughters of Pharo.⁶

Adieu

Y^{rs} most truely

TP.

I conclude most abruptly as I am calld to the funeral of a respectable tenant.

Editorial Notes

¹ The year may have been added by a later hand.

² The presence of the drawing of the whiff inside the copy sent to Bull of Ralph Beilby, *A general history of Quadrupeds*, does not appear to relate to the content of the book. See further [1147](#).

³ Pennant refers to a letter written by himself, inadvertently included in the parcel brought by his daughter, Arabella, to London.

⁴ 'in spite of myself'.

⁵ See marginalia to [1147](#) for a newspaper cutting relating to Pennant's 'admonition on the Burials at St. Giles'.

⁶ See Bull's reference to the popularity of the 'Faro tables' in [1147](#).