To John Bowle, Saturday 11 February 1764

Sir,

If you knew me better, you would not suspect me of so much ill breeding or ingratitude as to be capable of not thanking you for the favour of your letter. I am certainly much obliged to you for your informations and corrections, and should my Catalogue ever be reprinted, it shall profit by both. I am far from being able to make any work of mine so perfect as I wish it; but in the kind of works in which I have dealt, it is next to impossible for any man to make them near perfection at first. I have wished for and solicited new lights and assistance, and have ever been thankful for receiving them. It has happened to me several times to be furnished with additional materials by gentlemen, like yourself, sir, unknown to me: but I never was guilty of not owning the obligation by immediate answers. It is only when I have been abused, that I have been silent—those debts indeed I do not intend to repay. In truth, less of this has fallen to my share than I had reason to expect. The trifles I have offered to the public have been in general much more favourably received than they deserved.

The autograph of Queen Elizabeth is new to me. The title of King James's first work I have noted down in my own copy, having only seen the collection since my last edition.

You have raised my curiosity, Sir, extremely about Richard III. I

1. See heading to the previous letter.
2. In 1787 HW printed a quarto edition of Royal and Noble Authors which included 'Pieces omitted in the foregoing Catalogue... and discovered since the volume was printed' and other additions (Works i. 526-67). See HW to John Pinkerton 29 June 1787 (CHATTERTON 292-4).
3. See ante ca March 1762, 4 March 1762, and 19 April 1762.
4. HW did not include these items among the 'Pieces omitted' (see n. 2 above).