

Hyde Park Dutchess County
Oct: 6th 1852.

Scatterman,

I have received your letter on the subject of the contemplated Periodical, which there can be no doubt if conducted with ability, impartiality, and independence, will be highly beneficial to American Literature.

With respect to the aid I can do, I can at present promise nothing, because if my name were placed before the public among your contributors I should hold myself ^{bound} ~~obliged~~ to make good, and I find my tastes, opinions of principles on so many points, differing so widely from what appears to be the prevailing tone, that I apprehend they have become somewhat obsolete, and probably would not accord with those of the person or persons who are to decide in the selection of articles for publication. For these reasons, I cannot promise you any

apartness until I see whether my views & opinion
harmonize sufficiently with those of the contemplated
publication, which should, I think, proceed on
certain great leading principles with which
every portion should harmonize, as far as
possible.

Judging from my negotiation with Pub-
lishers for some years past, which is perhaps the
best test of the popularity of an author, my
name would be of little service to you, and
my ^{sanction} ~~approval~~ of your undertaking of no sort
of consequence. I therefore beg to withhold
it for the present, though cordially approving
your design, and if I promise nothing ~~now~~,
~~now~~, it may possibly happen I may even-
tually perform more than some of those
who promise a great deal.

I shall implicitly oblige your injunc-
tion of secrecy.

Very respectfully,

Scottingham

Your friend &c

J. M. Paulding

P. S. If I might take the liberty, I would most
strongly advise you, to place little depen-
dence on partly embellishment, (third rate
pictures, and vulgar caricatures, and to
^{rely} ~~depend~~ entirely on the literary merits of the
publication for success. In short, I would have
you make an appeal to the standard of a correct
taste and fairly try the experiment, whether
it is possible to secure the patronage of
an enlightened class of readers without the
aid of puffing. Lamb and wood cuts & vignettes
and caricatures equally detract from
and decency. I have always believed, that
the money wasted in these petty embel-
lishments - & they are called - if appropriated
to pure literary purposes, would in the end,
be much more advantageous to the publisher
of Periodicals. Good literature, like beauty
it does not require these flouting de-
corations, and is distinguished by a low taste
in dress. But I am aware of being greatly
biased, to the spirit of the age, which whether
a beneficent genius, or "Robin dressed"
is a question for posterity to decide. It

