To Contributors, Correspondents, &c.: From the
Author of the 'Note to Blackstone's Commentaries':
Extract of a Letter from the Reviewer of Messrs.
Adams' and Everett's Orations

N. Beverley Tucker
To Contributors, Correspondents, &c.

We thank our correspondent C. W. L. for pointing out the resemblance between the little epigram entitled "The Mistake Corrected," in our last, and the "Surprise," in Little's poems, which he quotes. The resemblance is certainly strong, and it is quite probable that the former if not borrowed was at least suggested by the latter. We cannot agree however, that it is a "plagiarism," in the proper sense of that term; for we know too well the personal and literary character of the gentleman who presented us with the trifles referred to, to suspect him for a moment of so paltry a proceeding. We rather conclude therefore, that its resemblance to Moore's "bagatelle," is either the result of casual coincidence—or more probably, perhaps, of an accidental mistake of the product of memory for that of fancy; a kind of mistake which those who have read much are very liable to make.

We assure our correspondent B. R. B. that we have carefully compared the lines published in our last with his manuscript, and find them to correspond verbatim. He wrongs us much if he thinks we would do him wilful injustice; and if one word has been substituted for another in the lines referred to, so as to change their sense, he must ascribe it to himself. We hope with this explanation he will excuse us from inserting his letter at full length.

There is a great deal of feeling in many of the communications sent to the publisher by T. H. C., M. D.; but to our poor taste, there is not much poetry. We question whether the Doctor will not find the lancet and pill box of more profit in that warm region to which he has emigrated, than the offerings of his prolific muse. The poetical manufacture depends more upon the quality than the quantity of its fabrics, for success.

We have received the following communication since the publication of our last number, from "Fra Diavolo" (Horaces correspondent) which, as it is brief, we spread before our readers. His shoots at our "literary morality" and "critical acumen," we receive with great composure. Perhaps indeed, our vanity might be wounded if we had a tithe only of what seems to belong to the writer himself; but as our pretensions are very humble, we care not a farthing whether they are disputed or not. His request not to publish his poetry, (except on his own terms) shall be complied with; and should we conceive his impure effusions to the flames, as he also desires, the world will have little or no cause to regret it. So long as we can secure the rich contributions received from other quarters, we shall console ourselves with the loss of "Fra's" favors, and even endeavor to survive his unprovoked resentment. To "give the devil his
From the author of the "Note to Blackstone's Commentaries,"

"You judge rightly that I have no call to answer my censor. I have no pride of authorship in the affair. I wished to awaken the public mind, and he has failed me, for which he has my thanks. I have no controversy with him. He argues against opinions I have not advanced, and, in his last paragraph, comes in an unbecoming manner. I must, therefore, request his attention to the fact of such criticism as I have ventured to express on a work. It is self-evident that any principle for which I contended, viz; the extinction only by finding shelter among the whites, he would thereby beam thrown on a red body produces a glittering gold, and thus the red breast of poor robin was metamorphosed into one of gaM. So much of the criticism, as for the critic, he has more than once remarked, to point out the proper path towards excellence. A true critic effects this by gently and courteously exposing error, and lauding beauties where beauties are to be found. So far as I can judge, neither gentlemen nor courtesies can be said to characterize the critical of your "Shakespearean friendship." The want of these qualifications would certainly have induced me to pass over the letter in question, had it not reminded me of the pamphlet war between Matthew Carey and the rabidly Cobbett, the first apologizing for his own rudeness, by quoting the old proverb, "light the candle before you read;" and the other, "take the fire from the jaws of folly, and drive it back." But this is idle philosophy; and in my brief answer, I shall endeavor as much as possible to observe that courtesy which your correspondent has

March 25, 1835.

H. DIAVOLO.

Extract of a Letter from the Reviewer of "Messrs. Adams' and Everett's Orations."

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