Pickering John

Mont. Feb. 26. 23.

I thank you, Sir, for your treatise on the Indian languages, and rejoice to see them thought worthy of your attention. a collation of them with one another is the only means we can ever have of ~~the origin and~~ tracing the filiation of those numerous tribes and of remounting thro' the gloom of ages towards their origin. nor is it without curiosity that ~~by~~ the analyses of their languages unfold to us structures so radically different from those of ~~Europe~~ the whole European families.

I was pleased to learn from Mr Everett's preface to his translation of Buttmann's grammar that you were engaged in preparing a Greek and Eng. Dict. it will be a most valuable present to the amateurs & students of that first of human languages. Planche in his Gr. & Eng. Dict. has done this for his country & done it well. his work is truly valuable; ~~and~~ tho an 8vo of 1000 pages, yet, printed on thin paper it is entirely handy, and not too ~~massive~~ weighty even for the nerveless hand of old age. I should however have liked it better on the plan of Stephens or Scapula, who have given us the roots only in alphabetical order, & have arranged all the ~~whole family of~~ branches in family together under them. this is more instructive ~~and~~ more satisfactory, and saves much repetition which ~~is~~ this sparse location of the words renders necessary. with my thanks accept the assurance of my great esteem & respect

Virginia