

Shenwood Forest

Aug. 22. 1853

My Dear Sir

You requested me some time since, to become a contributor occasionally to the Literary Messenger and I have scribbled off two short articles which I have waded to submit to your inspection. If you approve you can publish them or either of them at your own time and pleasure, but if they are not suited to your columns then lay them aside, and remember them as trifling offerings of good will to yourself and your Messenger. Old men like to indulge in the reminiscences of their youth, and under the influence of that feeling I have been carried back to the days of my novitiate at Wm & Mary College. Sally Strother is a life and not a fancy picture, and as such will be recognized by my few surviving associates at College. She may not be, after all, worthy of a column in the Messenger and I may not to admit her altho dressed in her rich brocade and beehangled Pannella's, if you should be of that opinion. The other is a grasses subject, and whether I present it in a form acceptable to the Messenger or not, the subject itself is worthy of all consideration. Know that I have not a particle of

The wisdom of literary authorship about me  
and shall feel no disappointment should you  
lay both the articles on the shelf.

I am again sufficiently long your  
debtor for my subscription to the Messenger.  
Be pleased to inform me of the amount  
and I will shortly remit.

With sentiments of high respect

I am Sir

Respectfully & truly  
Yours

John Taylor

- I cannot copy -

J. H. Thompson Esq