TM/6/7/2

My Lord Duke

I am truly sensible of the condescending readiness with which Your Grace has ~~had the kindness~~ been pleased to meet my wishes respecting Letters ~~of Introduction to~~ Italy & beg leave to return you my sincere & hearty thanks ~~for it~~ from & for the honor of Your communication of this Day. The grand object of my thoughts & studies is, & long has been the nature of man as moral & social being. To those speculations, which I still confidently hope will not prove ultimately fruitless, I consider my scientific pursuits (if I may be permitted so to call them) as secondary. Those pursuits are the Mathematics & the structure & philosophy (physical & metaphysical) of Languages; especially as exemplified in the English, Latin, Greek, French & Chinese ~~tongues~~. I am in the habit of reading Italian without difficulty, but have never till within this last fortnight attended to the pronunciation of it. I am now assiduously receiving instructions in what ~~must~~ need from Mr Petroni, an Italian Master. Especially to ~~[illegible]~~ and suggestion. & I shall do myself the honor of sending in my card to the Baron Ciani in a day or two, & if I ~~shall~~ may have the good fortune to see him, shall be most happy to profit by any remarks he may be pleased to favor me with. With an ever grateful sense of your Grace's obliging attentions I have the honor to be

Yr Grace's

most ob^t & devoted servant

[illegible]