

Mr William L. Battle.

Dear Sir,

Long delayed has come at last,  
Accept it, Sir, forgive the delay; Please view it not with  
"Critic's eye," but pass its imperfections by. —

I would it were without a blot, indeed were faultless, but 'tis not.  
I labored long and hard, 'tis true, to give it comely unto you;  
but, somewhat, despite all my pains, 'tis fallen short of my  
ambitious aim. —

Yet, pray, good Sir, for friendship's sake, the humble offering deign to take,  
and not for this the offering scorn; but take it, Sir, through your  
return, for kindly courtesy of show, by our the Public freely  
own, a man all-worthy, most deserving; from honour, justice,  
truth unswerving. —

Endorsing the clever Compliment, Permit me now, with  
true intent, in language proper, phrase polite, my  
humble name to underwrite, ere this business shall go forth.

Your Respectfully, and as of old,  
Cardborough N.C. 1873. — J. L. Dancy. —

O.C. Sometime (perhaps, no distant day,) exactly when I cannot  
say, should fortune smile, perchance I may, my Godetike turn  
again that way: to share, once more, the hospitalities, and dispense,