

To Palmira Johnson

Doct. Michale offers acknowledgements and thanks for the tale in verse - entitled Rosalie, forwarded to him thro' the post-office -

The scene of the Poem has been familiar to him from his youth. It is to be regretted that the uncouth name Hell-gate should have arisen from the classical word Hellsport. The early navigators and geographers called the water situated to the eastward of Hannond's point the Archipelago from a resemblance between the Islands with which it was interspersed, and the Ionian Sea of the same name - and from the similitude between the passage among the rocks to New York City and that along the strait to Old Byzantium, Hellsport

had

had been employed to signify the opening
by which boats could go from the
Archipelago to the great metropolis
beyond - and by their degeneracy in pro-
-nunciation and ignorance of the
primitive meaning the story of the
fair damsel Helle, is translated or
lost in the terrible legends of Hell.
I recollect well the tradition delivered
to me by several aged citizens of this
-Town of the continuity of Land from
Long Island to the main where the
Hellespont now is. I mentioned that
opinion of the Mattawock (Aborigines
of Long Island) in a geological tract
I once published on the maritime re-
-gion thereabout. Dr. M. has been
very pleasantly occupied in ^{this} reading
the narrative of Geysbert & Mariame,
of Rosalie and Constance, of Fitz-Eone
and Polydore. The writer has an
easy

easy flow of words prettily falling
into ~~the~~ rhythm and associated
with rhyme. The Storm and the
Funeral contain valuable evidence
that the pen that wrote the former
(p. 10-13) and the latter (p. 31-32)
had been employed in similar tasks
before and could readily delineate
scenes of external nature and of
moral sentiment again.
Prosperity to the Muse, and Success
to her Song! —
From Dr. Samuel Latham Mitchill

To printer of Rosalie ¹⁸²⁰
Sir I have duly received your favour ^{Monticello Dec 30}
of the 20th Inst. and with it Miss Palmer
Johnson's poetic tale of Rosalie and I
be of leave thro' the same channel to re-
turn her my thanks for it. I have read
it with great pleasure and that is saying
much for it from a reader of 47. But
the effusions of a feeling heart & deli-
cate fancy expressed in smooth numbers
make their impression even on the
dull sensibility of ~~that~~ that age, and
the sympathies with the fate of a
Constance & the fortune of a Rosalie
can still be felt. I have more especially
to thank her for the partialities towards
myself which she has been pleased to
express in her dedication, in which she
has ascribed to me much more than I
have merited or claimed. And I pray
you Sir, to accept assurance of my
great respect Th^o Jefferson

2^d letter

Th. Jefferson presents his compliments
to Mrs. Palmira Johnson & assures her
that he is justly sensible of the kindness
of the letter, and of the request she has
been pleased to address to him. faithful
endeavours to do right in the trusts
confided to him by his Country con-
stitute the sum of his pretensions
and if he has obtained the approbation
of his fellow Citizens it is his a bun-
-dant reward. If a lock of hair sil-
-vered by eighty winters could be worth
a request from the Author of Rosalie
he presumes he may venture to ask her
acceptance of a likeness of the head ~~also~~
also from which it is shorn as taken
by Stewart. And he renders her the
assurance of his most respectful
salutations

Monticello Sep. 27-23.