

Letter LI : Pages 186-191 :

Letter LI, refers to one of a sequence of imaginary letters between James Hackman, a soldier who became a clergyman, & Martha Ray, who was the mistress of the earl of Sandwich. She was shot by Hackman (her lover) as she was leaving Covent Garden in 1779.

Letter LI is a long letter, which stretches from p.140 to p.272 in Love and Madness. I have broken the letter down into sets of pages containing key items. At the bottom of each set of pages is a link to take you to the next set of pages in sequence, or you can click the link below and return to the Croft contents page.

[Back to Herbert Croft Contents Page.](#)

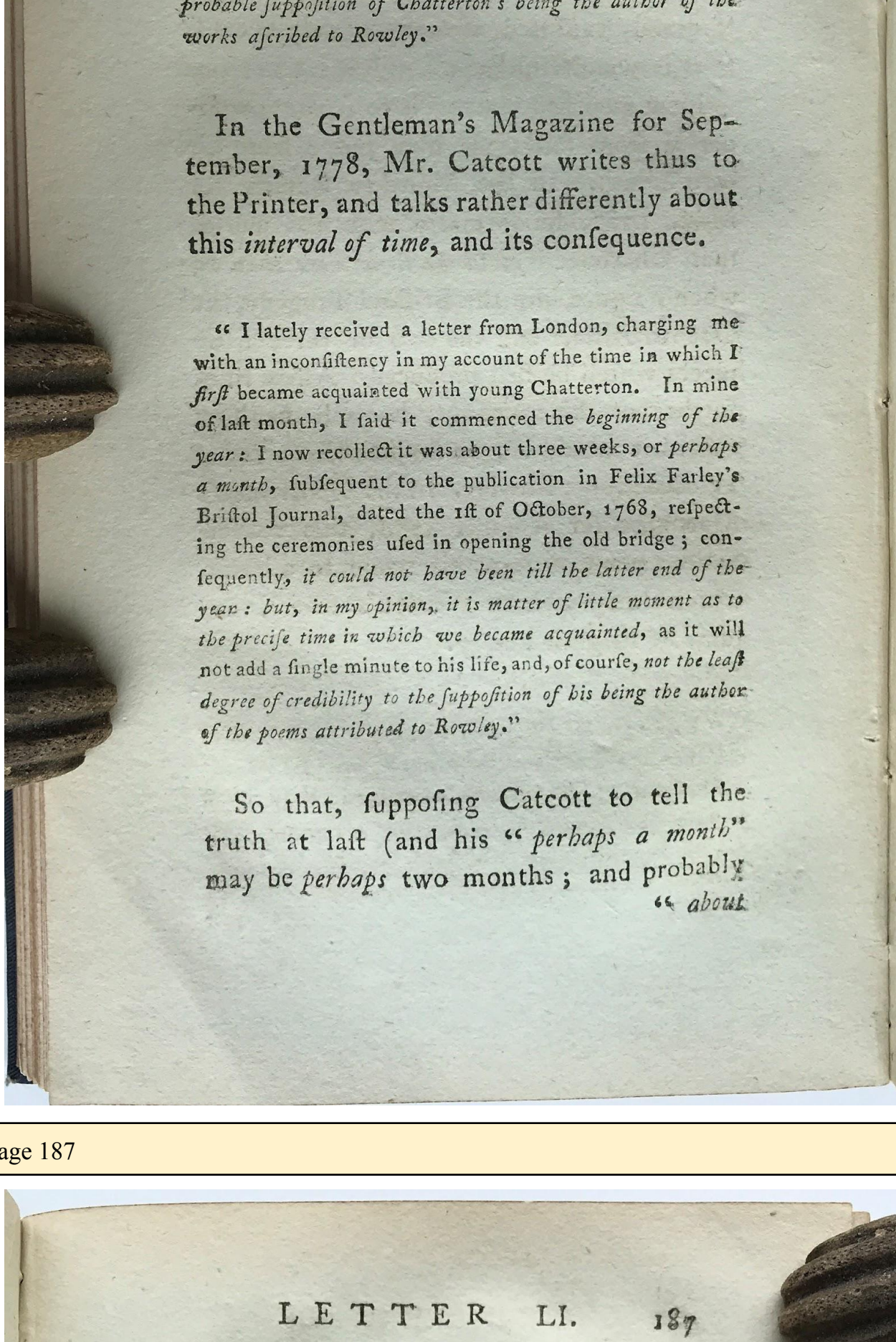
Contents

Chatterton contents : Letter LI : Five pages : 186-191

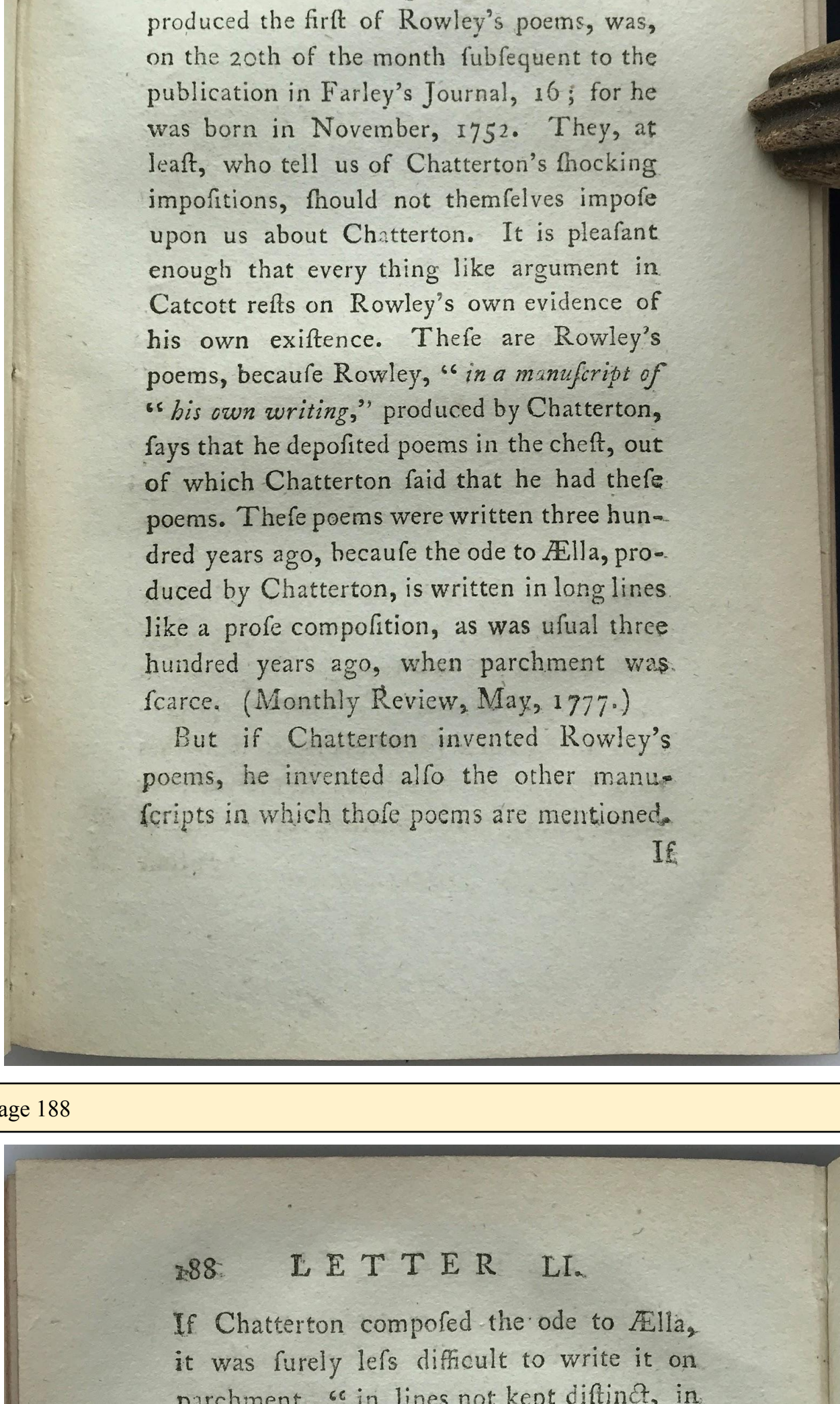
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- p.186 : [View](#)
Croft points us to the Gentleman's Magazine for September 1778 where, on page 403, he defends himself against 'inconsistency.' : [View](#)
QE! : A letter on the same page, dated the day before the Catcott signed letter, contains a mini bio of Chatterton and demonstrates why Chatterton couldn't have written Rowley's works. It is signed Bristolensis, but is undoubtedly a Catcott concoction, but even here he gets the date of Chatterton's death wrong.
- p.187 : [View](#)
Croft uses logic to show Chatterton is the author of Rowley.
Croft mentions the Monthly Review for May, 1777, again, which contains a letter from Catcott : [View](#)
- p.188/9 : [View](#)
Croft points the reader to Warton's *The History of English Poetry*, 1778, v2, p.159 : [View](#)
- p.190/1 : [View](#)
Croft lists the magazines and books referencing Chatterton & Rowley.
He introduces the first letter from Chatterton to his mother : '*Dear Mother, Here I am, safe, and in high spirits*'
QE! : The above letter is treated in the next set of pages. pp.191-193 : [View](#)

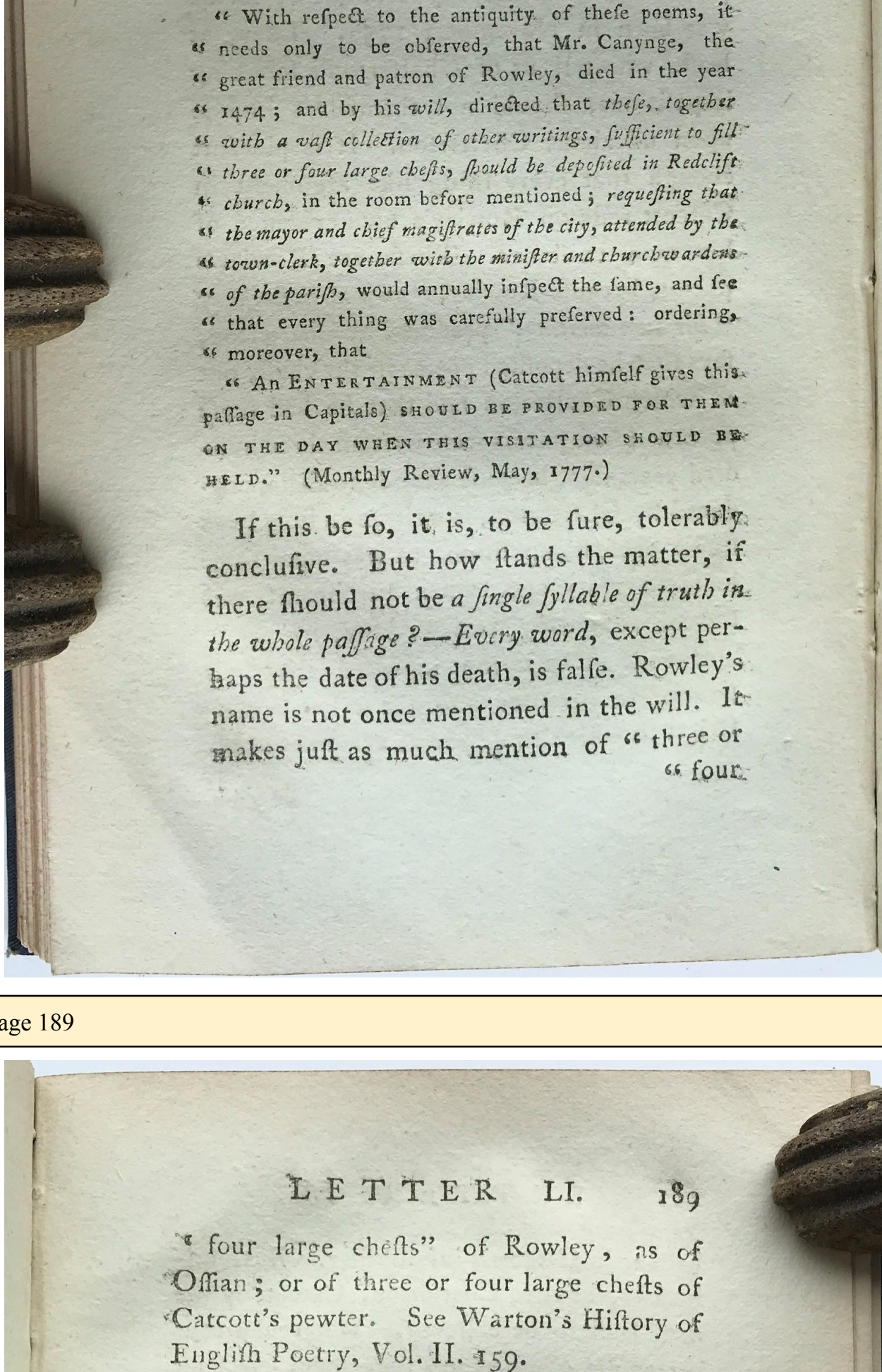
Page 186 : Letter LI



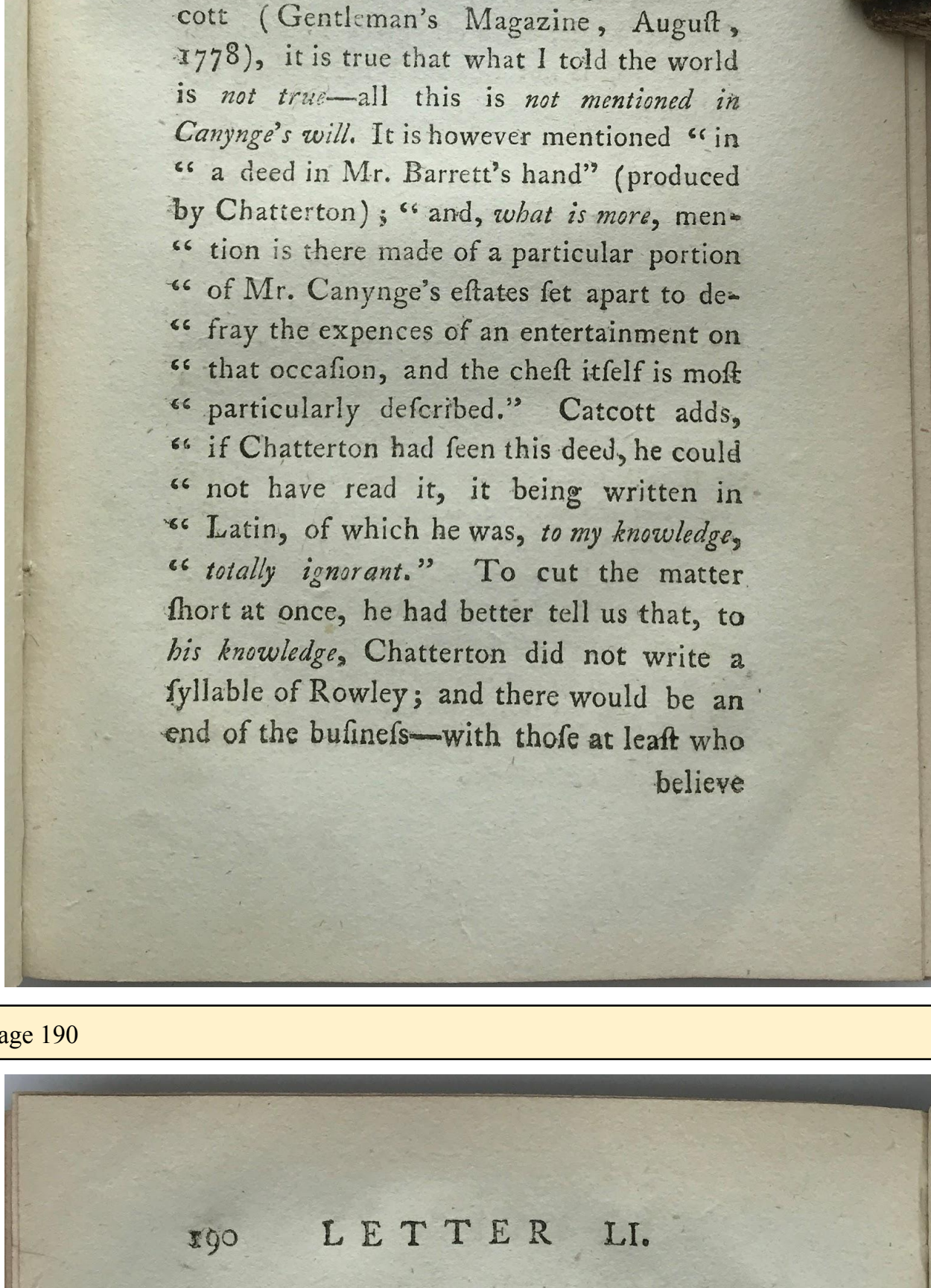
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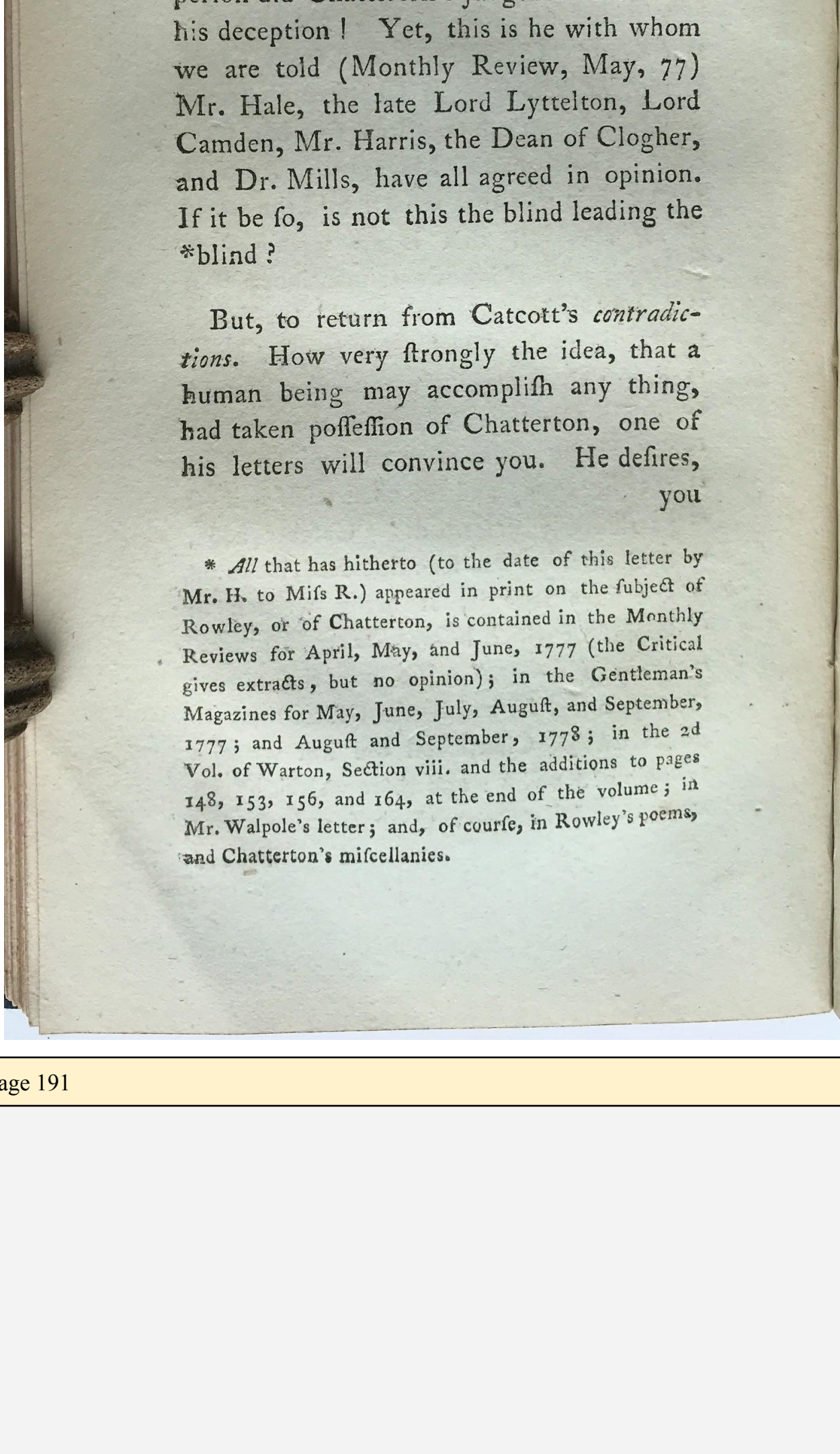
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you will see, his sister to improve herself in copying music, drawing, and *every thing which requires genius* ; as if genius were no less common to man and woman, than a pair of eyes or a nose. He gave all his fellow creatures credit for what he felt so plainly himself.

When Voltaire tells us, in his history of Charles XII. that, on such a day, Charles quitted Stockholm, *to which he never returned*, we are interested enough, even in such a savage, to feel something like concern. In April, 1770, Chatterton for ever quitted Bristol (from which place he never had before been absent further than he could walk in half a Sunday, and to which place he never returned), to try his fortune in London.—

Hear him now tell his own story ; and mark how regularly, but how rapidly, his method improves.

L E T T E R I.

Dear Mother,

London, April 26, 1770.

Here I am, safe, and in high spirits—To give you a journal of my tour would not be unnecessary. After riding in the basket to Brillington, I mounted the top of the coach, and rid easy ; and agreeably entertained with the conversation

The letter headed Dear Mother, London, April 26, 1770, is treated in the next set of pages.

End : or go to next set of Pages: pp.191-193 : [View](#)