

## Love and Madness 1786

### Letter LI : Pages 140-154

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Love and Madness, by Herbert Croft, is a fictional story based on a true event.

The fictional part consists of a sequence of imaginary chatty, romantic letters between James Hackman, a soldier who became a clergyman, & Martha Ray, who was the mistress of the earl of Sandwich.

The real event culminates with the death of Martha, who was shot by Hackman (her lover) as she was leaving Covent Garden in 1779, and Hackman was executed for the murder.

Herbert Croft, the author of Love and Madness, owned the house in Shoreditch that Chatterton lodged in. This connection seems to have heightened his interest in the Chatterton story, which he must have seen as a surefire way of increasing interest in his book. All he needed to do was find some way of integrating the two stories. So, off to Bristol he went and he met with Catcott (the first port of call for anyone interested in Chatterton). Catcott introduced him to Chatterton's mother, Sarah, and his sister, Mary, who showed him Chatterton's correspondence. Croft asked if he could take the letters for a few hours and then promptly left town taking the letters with him. The next Sarah and Mary heard about the letters was when they discovered they had been woven into and published for all to read in Croft's sensational book, which went into a number of editions, seven at the last time of counting.

Note :

Croft identifies each of the letters between Hackman and Martha with Roman numerals. He also uses Roman numerals to identify the genuine Chatterton letters, which does add a little confusion. However, it is easy enough to resolve as follows:

- The Chatterton letters run from page **I** to page **VIII**.
- The letters between Martha and Hackman run from **letter I** to **LIV**

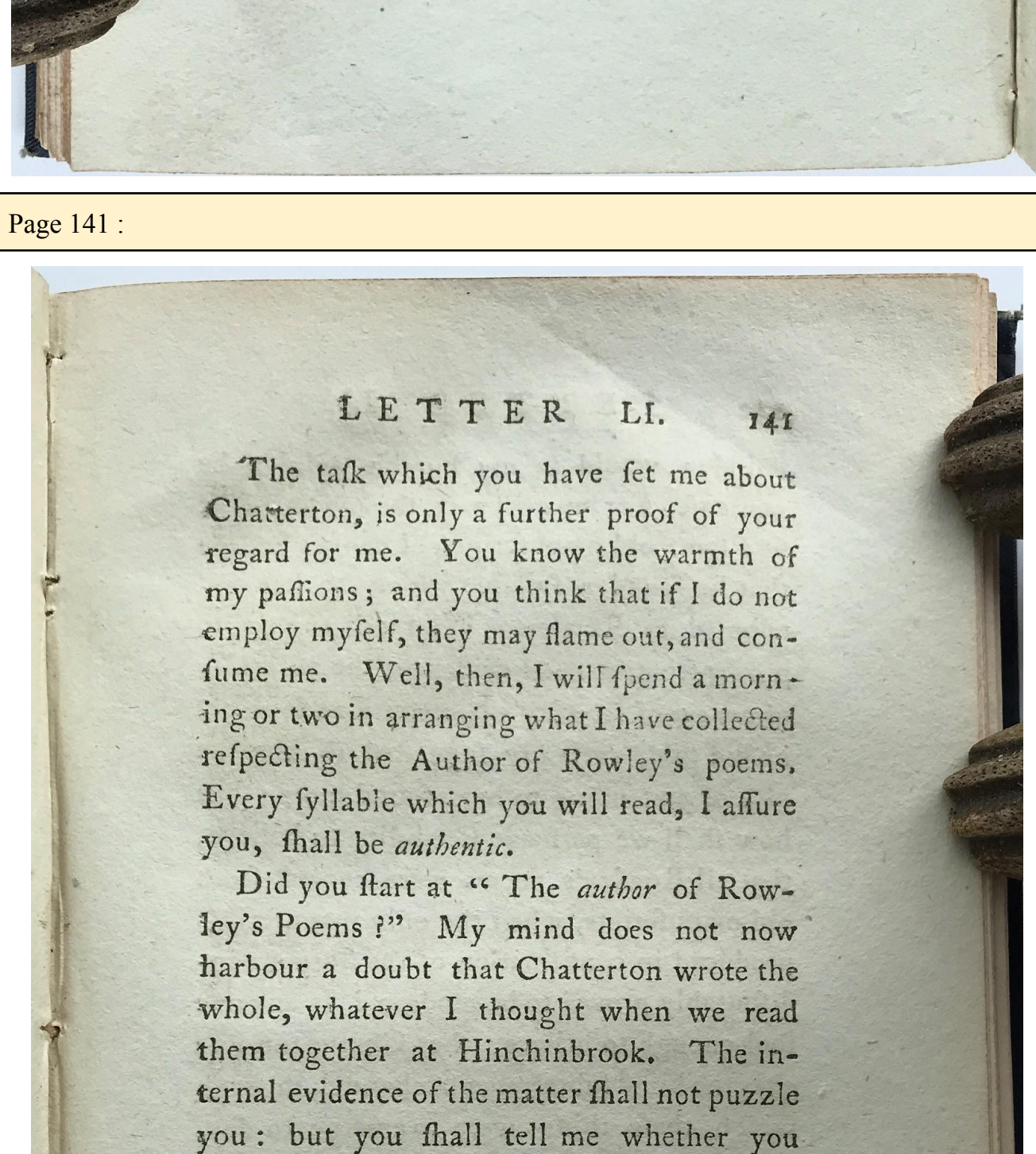
Letter LI is a very long letter, which stretches from p.140 to p.272. I have divided the Letter into sets of pages containing key Chatterton items. At the bottom of each set of pages is a link to take you to the next set of pages in sequence, or you can click the following link to go [Back to Herbert Croft Contents Page](#)

#### Contents

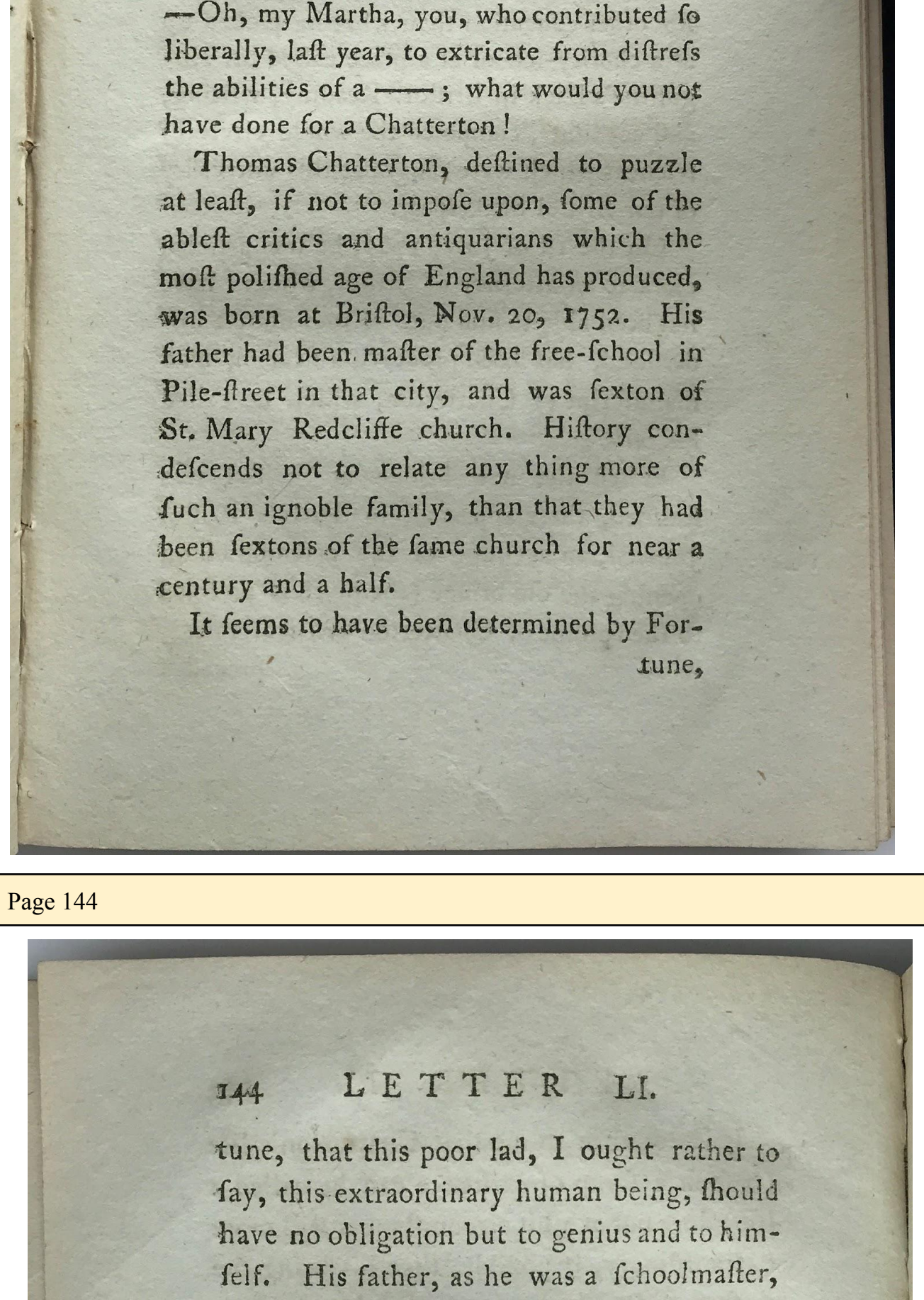
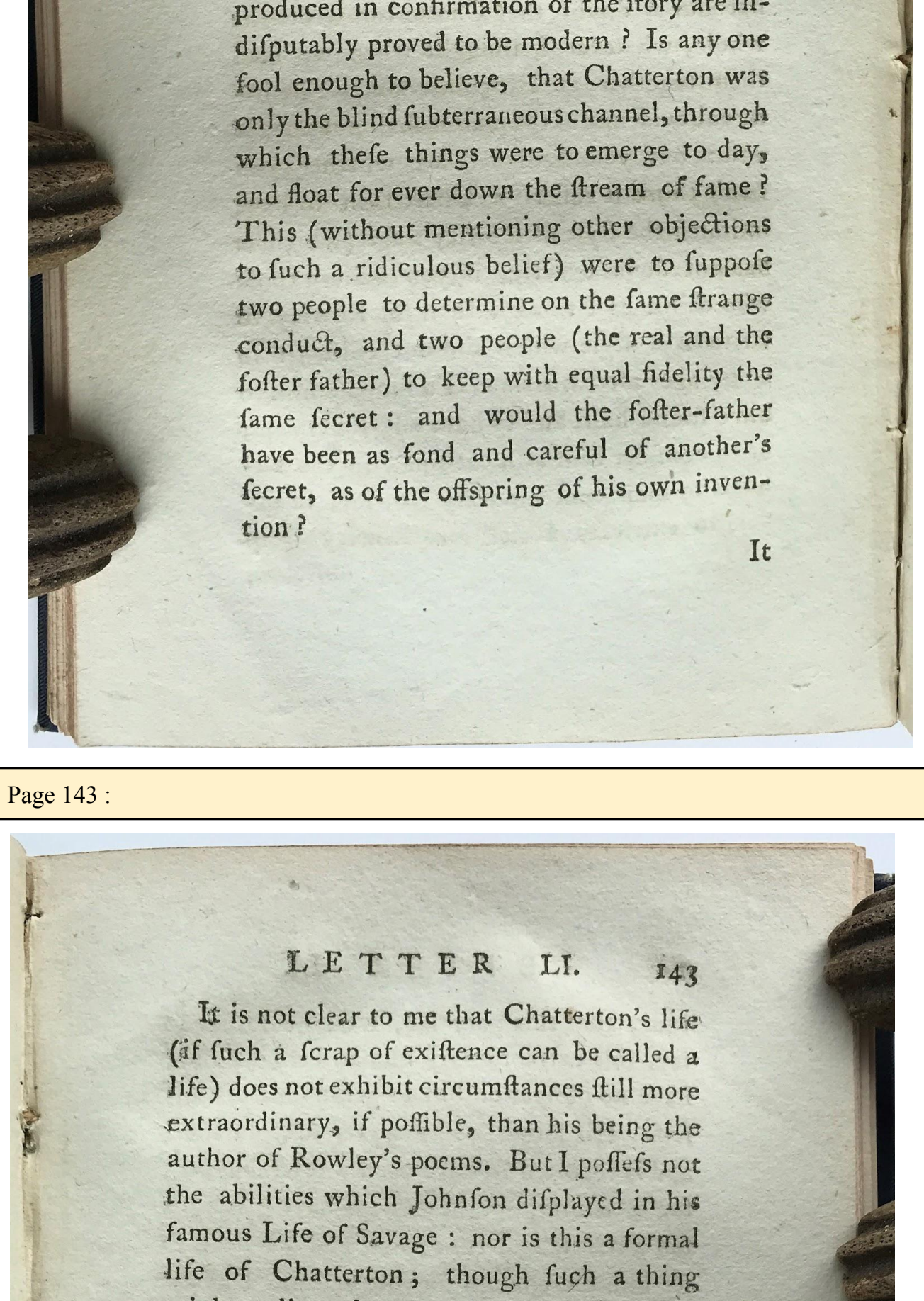
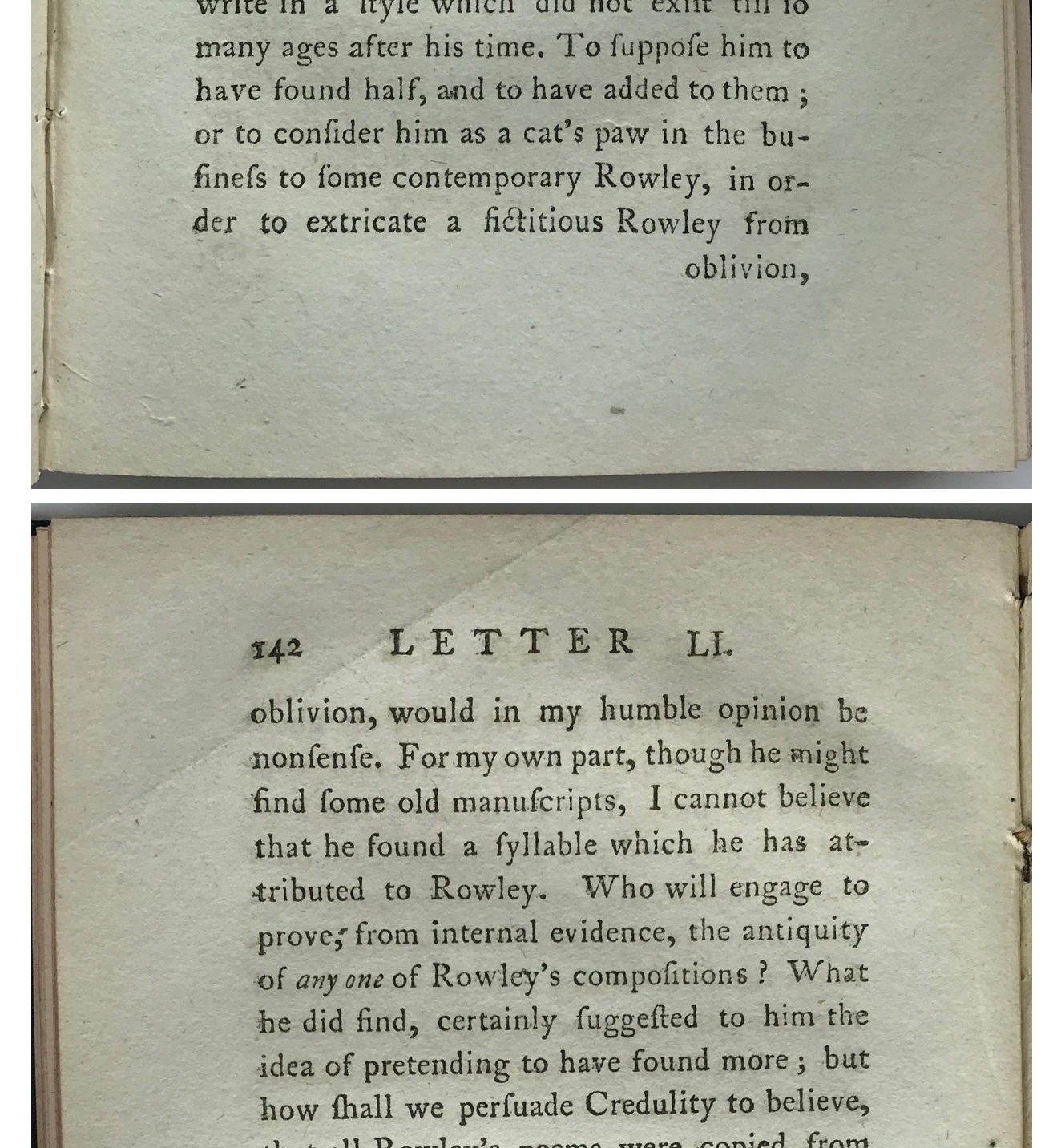
#### Chatterton contents : Letter LI : Fifteen pages : pp. 140-154

- pages 140 : nothing re Chatterton : [View](#)
- page 141/ 142 : Croft has no doubts that Chatterton wrote the whole : [View](#)
- page 143 : Chatterton (min-biography) : [View](#)
- page 144 : Croft states that Chatterton's father was a schoolmaster and Sexton & that he died '*very soon after, if not before, the birth of his son.*' Chatterton '*who indisputably received no other education than what he picked up at a charity-school at a place called St Augustine's Back in Bristol.* [Croft is wrong on a few points, which you will know having read the other biographies, for example, Chatterton's father was not a Sexton]. : [View](#)
- (144/145) Chatterton's letter to the newspaper re the 'Bridge Narrative' : [View](#)
- (146) Croft is sure Chatterton knew Latin : [View](#)  
Dunhelmus Bristolienfis. Barrett and Catcott. 'Ballad of Charitie.' Chatterton only produced two 'originals'; the rest were all 'transcripts.'
- (147) Barrett and Catcott were not generous to Chatterton or his family. Mrs Chatterton received £5, Mary had her whitelowed finger cured by Barrett. : [View](#)
- (148) Antiquarian at Cambridge states Chatterton, had he lived, could not have escaped hanging. : [View](#)
- (149/150) Chatterton was '*addicted to women, like all youths of strong imaginations*' : [View](#)
- (150/1) Chatterton wrote on both sides of the question. Memoirs of a Sad Dog, signed Harry Wildfire. Five lines of it in T&CM. : [View](#)
- (152/3) Walpole is not blameable for the life or death of Chatterton. : [View](#)  
Thomas Warton. Joseph Warton
- (154) A few lines from The Story of Wyllyam Canynge (verse 17 only) : [View](#)  
Note: the earliest printing is in the 1777 edition : [View](#)

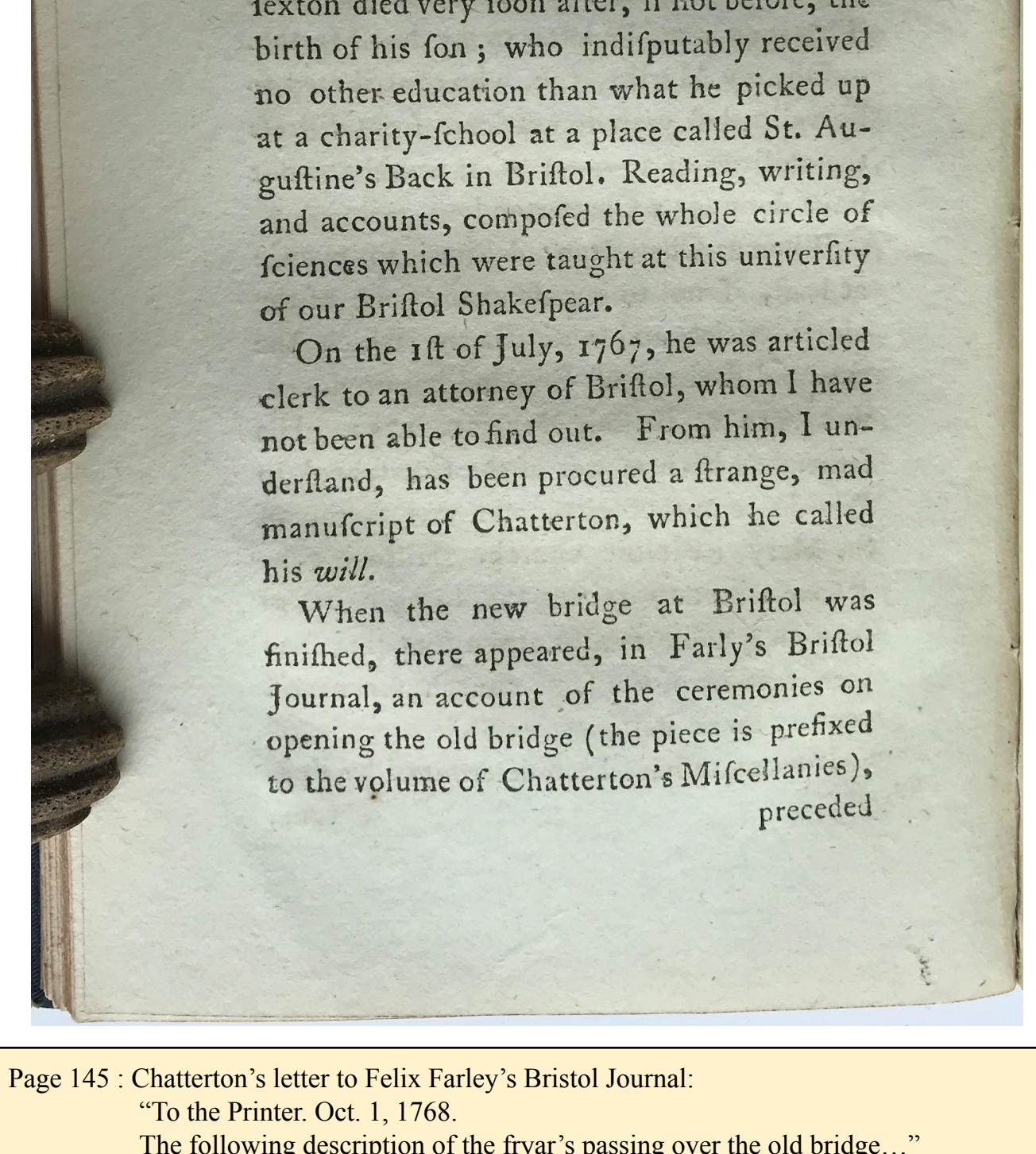
#### Panel 1 : Page 140 : Letter LI



#### Page 141 :



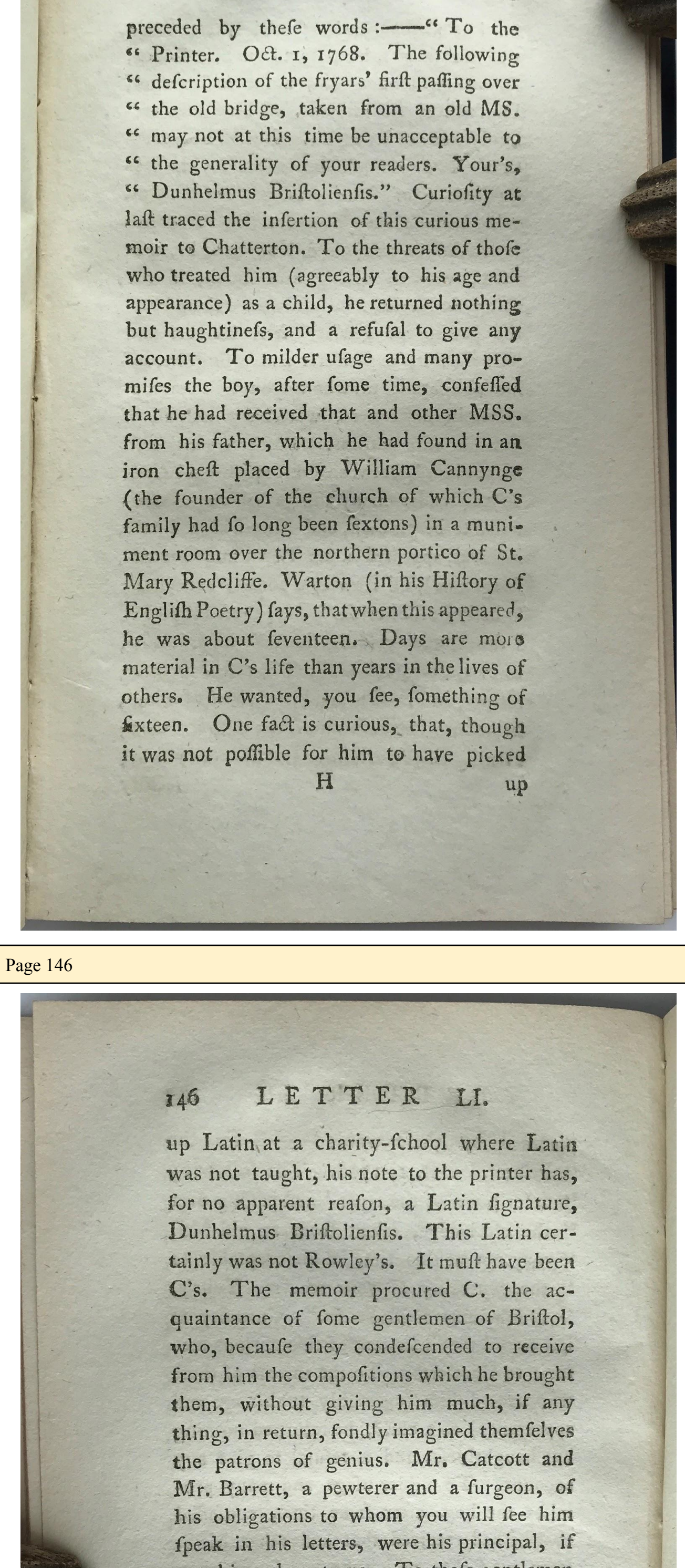
#### Page 144



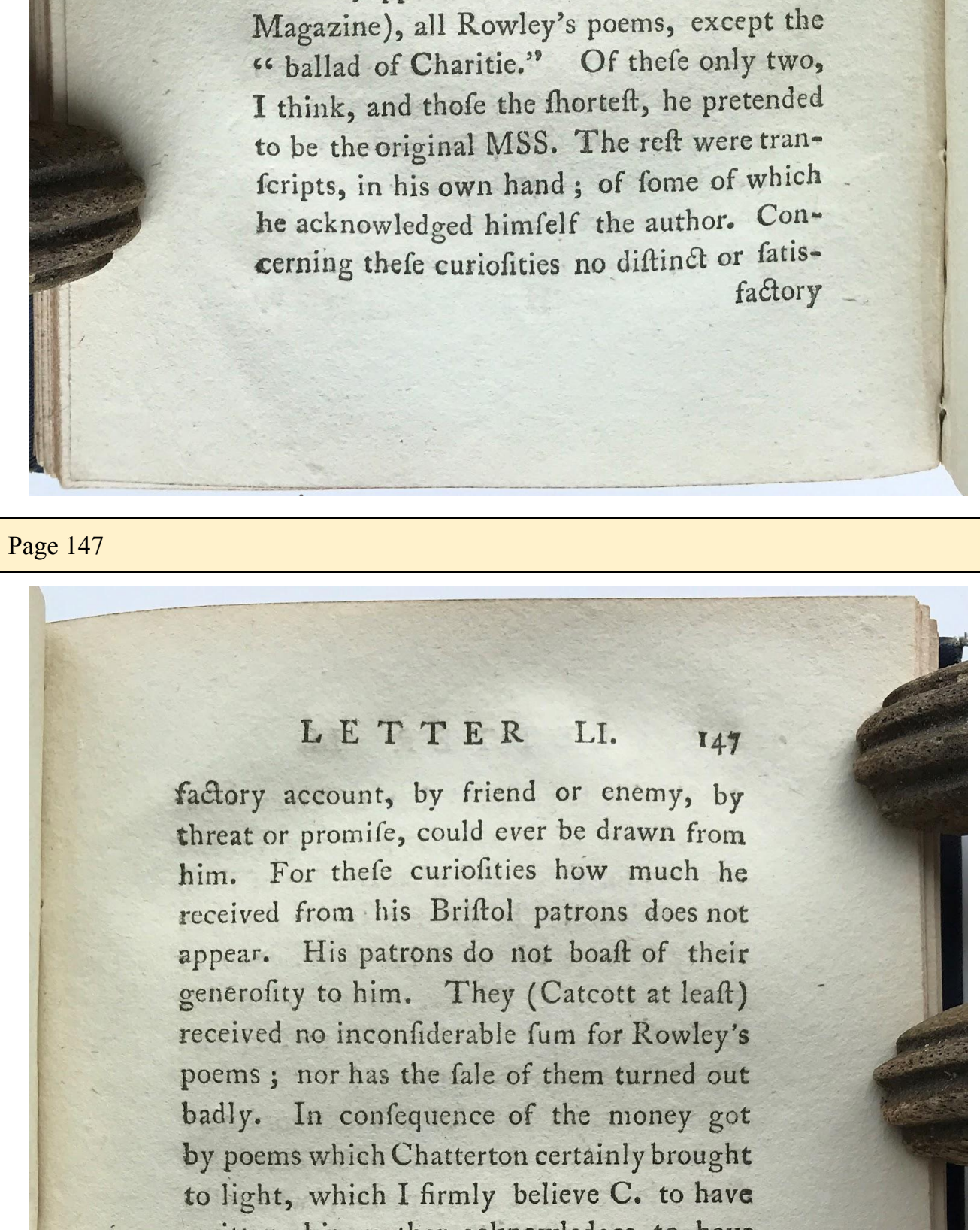
#### Page 145 : Chatterton's letter to Felix Farley's Bristol Journal:

"To the Printer. Oct. 1, 1768.

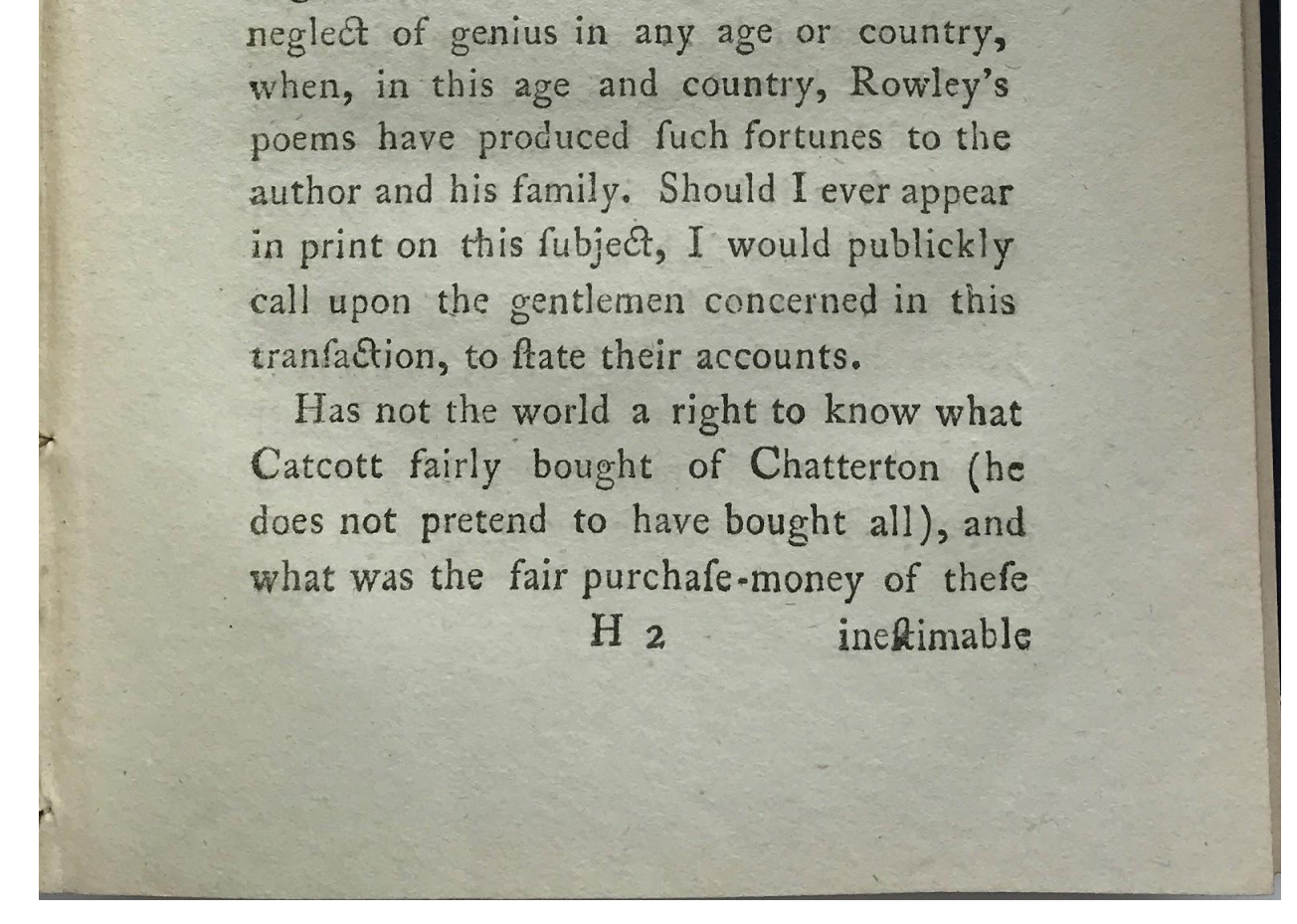
The following description of the fryar's passing over the old bridge..."



#### Page 146



#### Page 147



#### Page 148

