

Letter LI : Love & Madness 1786

161-164 : Mary's Letter to Croft :

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Love and Madness, 5th edition, 1786:

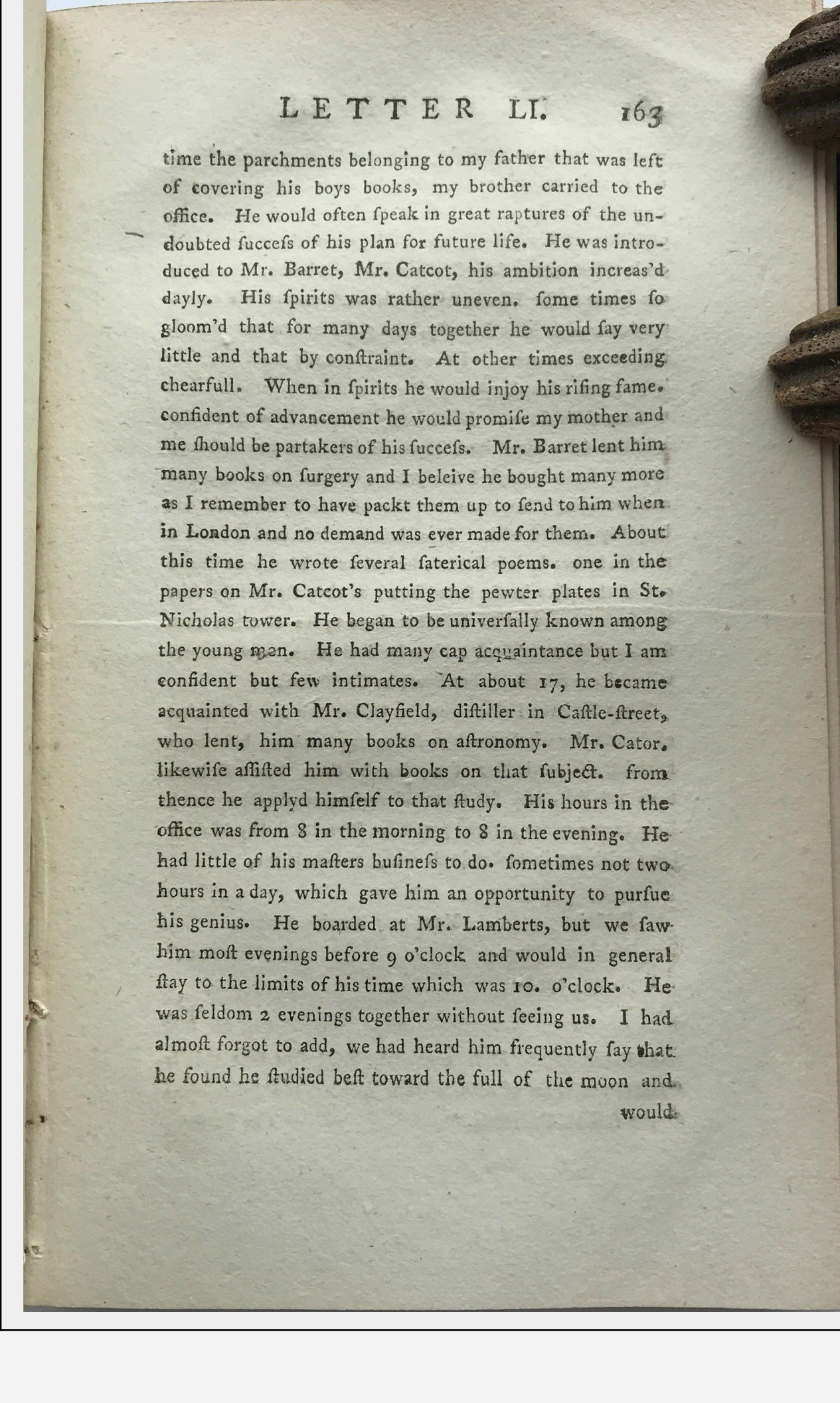
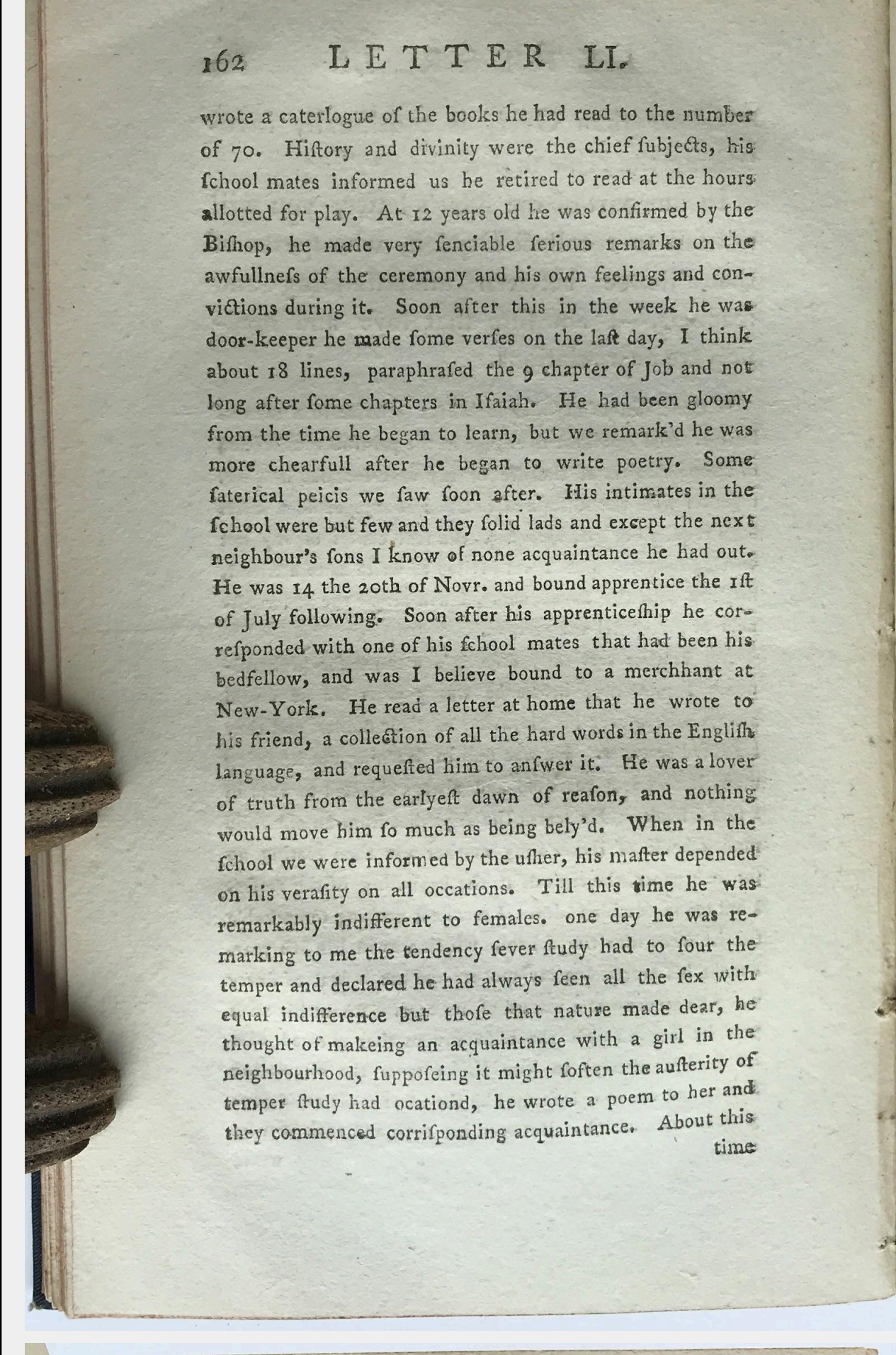
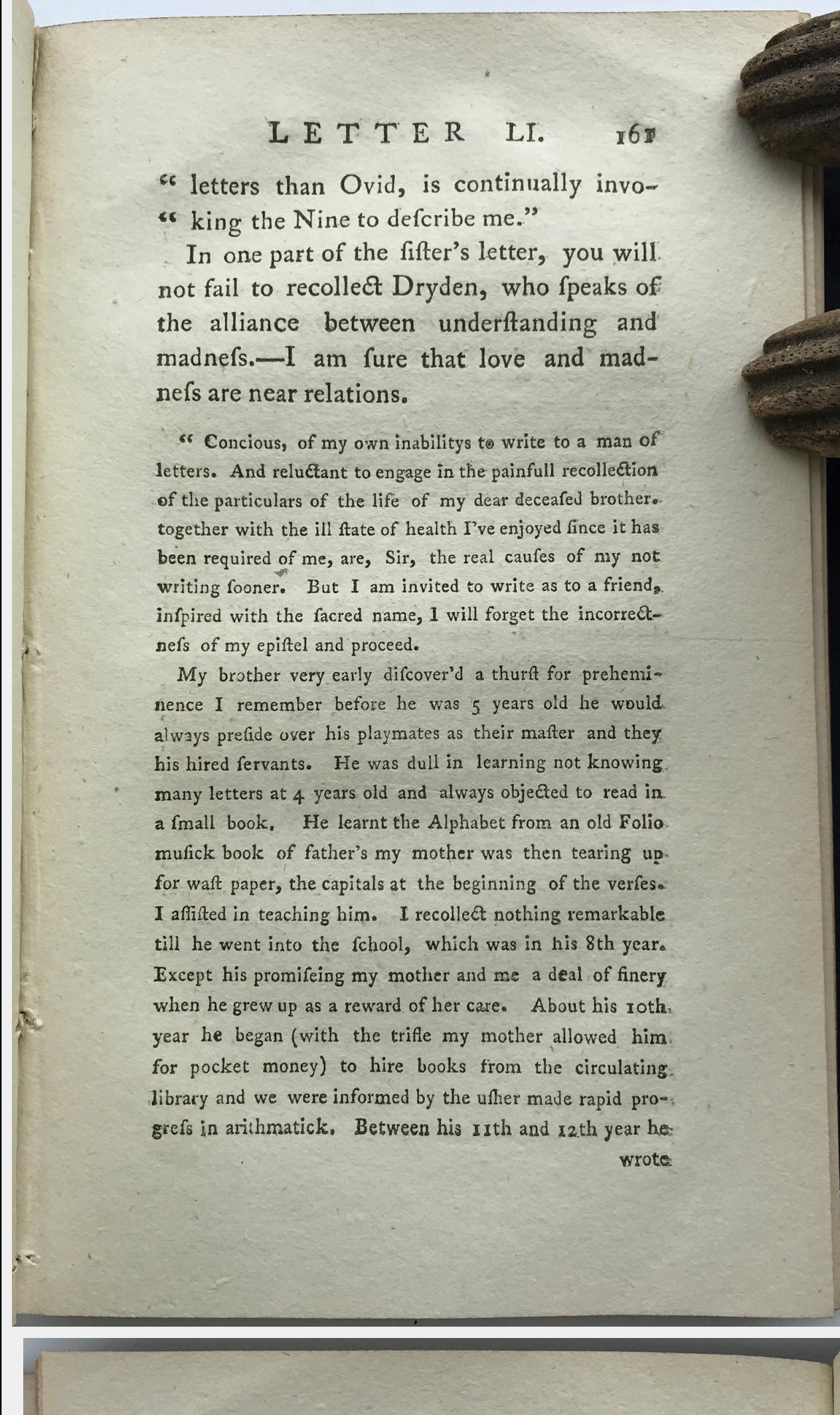
Letter LI : Pages 161-164 : Mary's Letter to Croft :

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.

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[LOE!] The letter starts: “*Concious, of my own inabilityys to write to a man of letters...*” Meyerstein states “I don't know if Croft altered Mrs. Newton's spelling, but in no autograph letter of her's that I have seen is it so illiterate as in this *piece justificative* of September 22, 1778. The others were supervised, perhaps.”

Page 161 :
Mary Newton's letter starts: “Concious, of my own inabilityys to write to a man of letters.”



would often sit up all night and write by moon light.* A few months before he left Bristol he wrote letters to several booksellers in London I believe to learn if there was any probability of his getting an employment there but that I can't affirm as the subject was a secret at home. He wrote one letter to Sir Horace Warpool, and except his correspondence with Miss Rumsey, the girl I before mentioned, I know of no other. He would frequently walk the College green with the young girls that stately paraded there to shew their finery. But I really believe he was no debauchee (tho some have reported it). the dear unhappy boy had faults enough I saw with concern. he was proud and exceedingly impetuous but that of venality he could not be justly accused with. Mrs. Lambert informed me not 2 months before he left Bristol, he had never been once found out of the office in the stated hours as they frequently sent the footman and other servants there to see. Nor but once stayd out till 11 o'clock; then he had leave, as we entertained some friends at our house at Christmas.

Thus Sir have I given you, as before the great searcher of hearts the whole truth as far as my memory have been faithfull the particulars of my dear brother. The task have been painfull, and for want of earlyer recollection much have been say the greatest part have been lost. My Mother joins with me in best respects which conclude me,

Sir

Bristol.
Somersetshire square.
Sept. 22, 1778

Your very humble servant,
Mary Newton."

To

* Bacon (Nat. Hist. cent. IX. 894) says that "it is like, the brain of man waxeth moister and fuller upon the full of the moon."

The Editor.