

taking upon myself the office of his commentator at my advanced age.

May I request, sir, that you and the public will permit that age to be my excuse for any errors I may have committed, and for any deficiencies in the performance of an office which at no period would have been congenial to my habits; and allow me to remain, with esteem,

DEAR SIR,

Your most obedient humble servant,

JAMES WATT.

HEATHFIELD, May 1814.