

thought that such attacks had only the effect of advertising the rival journal, and rendering it of greater importance. With reference to the article on Sydney Smith's 'Visitation Sermon' in No. 5, Mr. George Ellis privately wrote to Mr. Murray:—

"Gifford, though the best-tempered man alive, is *terribly* severe with his pen; but S. S. would suffer ten times more by being turned into ridicule (and never did man expose himself so much as he did in that sermon) than from being slashed and cauterized in that manner."

Mr. Murray even expostulated with Mr. Ellis himself, because of his reference to the *Edinburgh Review* in his article on 'Clarke's Travels' in the seventh number.

*Mr. Ellis to John Murray.*

Sept. 15th, 1810.

"I have now erased, in conformity with your wishes, some of the allusions to the *E. R.*, and have left, indeed, only *one* prominent quotation from them (that relating to Astrachan); to evince the extreme bad taste of which I have, instead of making any comment of my own, subjoined a note at the bottom of the page from Bell's very valuable 'Travels.' You will readily believe that I am never very anxious to enter the lists with our adversaries, and I generally wish to avoid it, because it is certain that, *if* in such a conflict we should ever be guilty of the sort of grossness which they employ, we should injure ourselves with rational readers. But I cannot agree with you in thinking that when they have formally thrown down the gauntlet (as they have done on the subject of Dr. Clarke), we are bound altogether to abstain from noticing their defiance, because, as they unquestionably possess, and, to a certain degree, deserve, a high reputation, we cannot, without a degree of affectation even more ridiculous than that of Sydney Smith, pretend a total ignorance of their opinions."

After further explanations about the Oxford article in No. 7, Mr. Murray and Mr. Gifford went on again harmoniously.