

Accession number: 1992-24/29

Description: Single sheet, written on one side. Some lines on critics, in Garrick's hand. n.d.

Transcript:

To raise your smiles without a fee, were it my happy lot,
(For Smiles are honest, when the hands are not)
In vain would Critick wits thus growl their thoughts,
Yes, he'll be better when he mends his faults:
Ye [ravn'ous] Giant Criticks! Will ye nothing spare?
What fight with Shadows, prey upon the air?
Like Wantley's Dragon with a Baby grapple?
And Eat me up, as one would eat an Apple?
Slender in fame, let me some Subsistence get
Mere skin & bone, I'm scarce a mouthful yet!
Ladies! Your smiles would strike these Monsters dumb
You could protect poor me from [later addition in pencil 'me from their']
fee, fo, fum:
Tho[ugh] weak my Cause it is &c &c

I should be glad to have a line from you directed here to know what you think of the above.

Notes:

Aileen Osborn, 'The Literary Material in the Hereford Garrick Papers', M. Phil thesis, University of Birmingham, 1999, 242-3. Says it is 'evidently intended to be inserted into [1992-24/7] 'Prologue for Mr O'Brien'

Wantley's Dragon: the Dragon of Wantley is an old story preserved in Percy's *Reliques*. A monster is slain by More of more Hall, who procured a suit of armour with spikes and kicked the dragon in the backside where alone it was vulnerable. (Brewer) (Osborn, 243)