

Woodland Forge

Dec. 22. 1854.

Robert Baldwin Esq.

Dear Sir:

I received your note last night,
with the volume of Mr. Deering, which accompanied it,
and read the latter through with great pleasure. It
is a fair specimen of the modern classical drama, after
the old model, a little too directly imitative of "Ivan".
You, my dear Sir, know too well the requirements of the
Gothic Drama, and the great stature of Shakespeare, not to
know that the classical drama can have no living even.
We have survived it. Say this to your young friend that
he may waste no more time upon a dead thing. Let him seek
his model among the living. Still, as a debut, the drama
proves that he has stuff in him. But he must work. More
verse dialogue, however good, is ^{in a drama,} ~~fixed~~ ^{unlike} the char-
acters are put in actual flesh & blood action. I will take
note of this performance somewhere, & send you the result.
Meanwhile, thank Mr. Deering for me for his book. May
present me, with affectionate respects to Mr. B. and believe
me very truly yours &c

W. Gilmore Simms

S