Part One

“THE HUMOROUS EGO”
Panoramic Vision
My dear Sir.

I hardly know what subjects to point out as suited to my capacity—light matters connected with Art, humorous reviews, critiques of novels—French subjects, memoirs, poetry, history from Louis XV downwards and of an earlier period—that of Froissart and Monstrelet. German light literature and poetry—though of these I know but little beyond what I learned in a year's residence in the Country fourteen years ago: finally subjects relating to society in general where a writer may be allowed to display the humorous ego, or a victim to be gently immolated. But I am better able to follow than to lead and should hope to give satisfaction in my small way.

Thackeray, letter to Thomas Longman, proprietor of the *Edinburgh Review*, 6 April 1845