Claude Newlin in his life of Hugh Henry Brackenridge called attention to a manuscript note by Henry Marie Brackenridge written to accompany a copy of the 1846 edition of *Modern Chivalry* which he presented to Louis-Philippe, King of the French. "Fifty years ago," Brackenridge wrote, "I saw your Majesty at my father's house in Pittsburgh, with your Majesty's estimable brothers. The recollection is as distinct as if it were yesterday. How wonderful seem to me the ways of God, when I contrast the modest, wise young man in exile with the greatest sovereign in the world! I have read that your Majesty some times speaks of the author of 'Modern Chivalry' — will your Majesty be pleased to accept a copy of that work as a token of remembrance from his son?"  

The following hitherto unpublished letter from the younger Brackenridge to Carey and Hart, publishers of the new edition of *Modern Chivalry* in 1846, requesting that copies of it be sent to Robert Walsh, then United States Minister to France, and to the King of the French, makes clear that Brackenridge inclosed with it the personal note which was to be placed in the copy for the King. The letter to Carey and Hart is interesting, too, for the description of Darley's Farrago on horseback as a good likeness of the writer's father. 

The second letter to Carey and Hart supplies a glimpse of contemporary book-selling practices.  

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2 The first letter is published through the courtesy of the New-York Historical Society, New York City; the second is from the collections of the Library Company of Philadelphia.
Harrisburgh April 23d 1846

Sir,

I expect to leave this place tomorrow. I take the liberty of requesting a favor, which will in part be explained by the inclosed. I have frequently heard that Louis Phillip, has spoken of my father in very high terms, and also of Modern Chivalry, a copy of which he gave him in Pittsburgh. He was a guest of my father's at that place. I recollect him well, being at that time, about ten years of age. Will you be so good as to send a copy to Robert Walsh, for himself, and one done up in a suitable manner for the King. A letter from you to Mr. Walsh, explanatory &c, will be requisite. I presume the French Consul, will take charge of it, or if preferrable, it may be sent to Mr. Walsh by private hand. I have long intended this small token of remembrance.

There is one merit in Darley's Captain Farrago on horseback, I forgot to mention — it is a good likeness of my father! He no doubt sat for his own picture in a great deal that relates to the Captain.

If you send a box to Pittsburgh containing copies of the work, be so good as to direct to the care of William Eichbaum Esq—

I am

Yours &c

H. M. Brackenridge

Mess' Cary & Hart—

Tarentum July 4. 1846

Dear Sir—

I have been looking anxiously for a sight of Modern Chivalry. I hope it will soon make its appearance. I think I directed you to send the copies you proposed to place in my hands, to Mr. William Eichbaum at Pittsburgh, as they might otherwise remain sometime there without my knowledge, on account of my residing in the country at the distance of twenty miles. I think I mentioned that forty copies would be my share, half of which will be given to my brother Alexander, so that we may distribute them [to] our relatives. The remainder I will make arrangements to dispose of for your benefit. There is a young man in my neighborhood, of rather delicate constitution, who has some education and literary taste, with a strong desire to travel about, and on whose integrity I can place the most
perfect reliance, who has a notion to turn book pedlar, having tried
the business of col-porteur for a religious society with some success.
But he prefers a more free and liberal kind of business, more suitable
to a gay and sprightly disposition, and talks of getting a horse and
covered waggion, to carry an assortment of books through the country
and neighbouring towns, and indeed through the West, which presents
an admirable field in my opinion for this kind of business. I have
suggested to him to make your Comic lib[r]ary the staple of his
business, Modern Chivalry &c, taking along his violin and accordion,
he appears to me the very Chap for the trade. He would take a popular
sing-book, and make the bumpkins buy, from the belief that if they
only possessed the book they could sing the songs as well as he! If I
get the number of Copies of Modern Chivalry say five hundred, I
think I will start him with them, and as he appears to succeed, extend
his stock, and procure for him a collection of the chief publications,
"Brother Johnathans" &c—

If not too much trouble, I would thank you to send me the work
as soon as it has advanced, the illustrations &c— They can be
forwarded by mail directed to Tarentum—

I am sincerely
Yours &c

H. M. Brackenridge

Messrs Cary & Hart—