Blake/An Illustrated Quarterly, Volume 32, Issue 2, Fall 1998, pp. 29-31
I HAVE lately met with a book of your's, entitled—
THE AGE OF REASON, part the second, being an
investigation of true and of fabulous theology;—and I
think it not inconsistent with my station, and the duty I
owe to society, to trouble you and the world with some
observations on so extraordinary a performance. Extra-
ordinary I esteem it; not from any novelty in the obje-
tions which you have produced against revealed religion,
(for I find little or no novelty in them,) but from the zeal
with which you labour to disseminate your opinions, and
from the confidence with which you esteem them true.
You perceive, by this, that I give you credit for your
sincerity, how much soever I may question your wisdom,
in writing in such a manner on such a subject: and I have
no reluctance in acknowledging, that you possess a con-
siderable share of energy of language, and acuteness of
investigation; though I must be allowed to lament, that
these talents have not been applied in a manner more use-
ful to human kind, as I am convinced of your good
intentions.
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Robert M. Ryan, The Romantic Reformation: Religious Politics in English Literature, 1789-1824
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Finn Coren, The Blake Project: Spring and The Blake Project: Spring: Appendix
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INFORMATION

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COVER ILLUSTRATION: Page 1. The annotations around the title "Letter I" and those to the right of it were written with a finer nib than the rest. Courtesy of the Huntington Library and Art Gallery.

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