149. “Assist me oh thou muse divine,” December 1831 to January 1832, MS VIII. Previously unpublished.

See no. 148 for dating. This mock-epic lyric provided a break from the composition of the epic “Athens” (no. 135)--a portion of which it follows, and from which it is divided by an ornamental line. For Ruskin’s dog Dash, see, e.g., no. 144. I know of no other reference to the cat Douna.

Assist me oh thou muse divine

And ye sacred sisters nine

For Im in <an> the need

I have got a theme indeed

Let me now acquire much honour

[Sung(?)] the wars of Dash and Douna

They were with gentle touch and [paw(?)] sir

A most loving dog and cat sir

But they took an angry fit on

When she introduced the kitten

<One> Cat liked that and dog liked this

Then twas scratch and spit and phiz