

Mr. Sotheby, Esq.

Lower Ground Floor  
Three

London

1831



My dear Sir

A metastatic fit, or fall in, of my nervous Rheumatism, which occurred on the same day with the receipt of your Note, or rather the sickness, faintness, and uneasiness consequent on and symptomatic of these caprices of the Nerves, must be my apology for having allowed so many days to pass without any record of my thanks to you for the undelaying promptness with which you placed my letter to the L. Chancellor in her Lordship's own hands. Could I indeed have expressed my sense of your friendly service without reference to the contents of your Note, all as I was, I should have replied on the instant. But I was jealous of the possible influence, which the extreme despatch of spirits incident to my complaint might exercise on my judgment; and even on the ground of respect to you - not to mention others, who without my knowledge have, I find, taken a similar friendly interest in this affair, I was most anxious that my determination should be such as might stand the test of my Reason, and Sense of Duty - such as might be sanctioned by the Conscience at that hour, when the feelings whether of pride or of vanity, with all that had stirred them, will be as toys by the bed-side of a sick and moaning Child. Tho. I believe myself now capable of doing; and therefore, having once more

returned thanks to yourself for your kind wishes, friendly intentions, and prompt efforts in my cause. I beg leave then' you to convey, both to the S. Chancellor and Lord Grey, my grateful acknowl-  
-edgement of the prompt attention, which my case has received from  
their Lordships, and my due appreciation of the humane  
desire, evinced by them, to prevent or obviate ~~the immediate~~  
~~destruct or embarrassment, in which the sudden, and unforeseen~~  
~~Withdrawing~~ <sup>withdrawal</sup> of the honor and honorarium of a Royal Associate  
of the Royal Society of Literature might otherwise involve  
me, by a private grant from the Treasury of £200.  
but that I beg leave most respectfully to decline it.

This, my dear Sir! is all, I presume, that it is  
necessary for me, or that it would be becoming in me, to say to  
your Lordships. But to you I seem to myself to owe a statement  
of the reasons that have actuated me to the decision; and at some  
future opportunity, god granting any such, I hope to do this at full.  
But for the present let it suffice to remind you, that at no  
period of my life have I ever attached myself, or in fact belonged to  
any Party, religious or political. That I have never labored for  
any lower purpose than the establishment of Principles, the discovery  
or determination of Laws. (see the enclosed script). But the neither  
Whig nor Tory, I am enough of the latter, I trust, sincerely and

X. a moiety of what was (if I understand Lord Brougham aright)  
to be extorted to me immediately, in discharge of any obligation for  
the liquidation of which I had ~~paid~~ on the 105*£.* that shants have  
been received on the first of last Month viz. 1 May, 1831. the other 100*£.*  
to be held in reserve by you, & bestowed on me the year following.  
S. T. C.

habitually to fear God: and to honor the King, as ordained of God  
he is no reflection or derivative from the (pretended) Sovereignty of the  
People, but as the lawful Representative, the consecrated Symbol of the  
Unity and Majesty of the Nation: and therefore, with all the possible  
affection and respect that can be felt toward a Gentleman personally  
stranger to me, I can not but find a most essential difference between  
a private donation from Lord Grey, and a public Honor and  
Auspice conferred on me by my Sovereign in mark of approval of  
the objects and purposes to which I had devoted and was continuing  
to devote the power and talents entrusted to me. Some few letters  
to the former would be indeed a pette <sup>petticoat</sup> 215 anno regnos.

At my first presentation to the Royal Society of Literature I publicly  
stated - that I received "the appointment with glad and  
grateful feelings, as favorably confirming me in the assurance,  
that I had not mistaken my vocation, retrospectively: and  
prospectively as a means of enabling me to give my whole  
time and entire powers to the completion of those more  
important works, for which I regarded all, I had hitherto  
attempted, whether own <sup>own</sup> voice or by the Prop., but as a preparatory  
discipline: and I ended <sup>with</sup> ~~by~~ the same remark on the  
two orders of men of Letters, the distributors & popularizers of  
knowledge already in the professor of Economy, and the Admirers  
or Professors of the knowledge itself, who while I intended my last  
note to you, accompanying my letter to the Chancellor. - Further:

in this letter to Lord Brougham I did not indeed hesitate  
to avow my Poverty. But grievously have I been misunderstood,  
if I have been supposed to plead that Poverty, poverty and  
indebtedness of its causes, as the ground of my application.

I avowed it because I knew it to have been not only a blane of life but an honorable Poverty - no consequence or pecuniary of Vice, extravagance, Improvidence or Idleness - but the effect and result of an entire and faithful dedication of myself to Ends and Objects, for the realization and attainment of which I was constrained to believe myself especially fitted & therefore called, on open eyed an & voluntary disrelation of those more lucrative employments, equally kind at many periods of my life in my power, but which hundreds of my contemporaries could fill with equal or perhaps greater profitability of success. - Mr. Mrs. & original weighty & weigh the more with me, that tho' I have (perhaps, - the faultiness indifference) abstained from noticing the strange import of myself, & my philosophy <sup>misunderstanding various & Pseudo-biographies</sup> & ~~had~~ <sup>had</sup> the world of calumnies & spite in direct contrariety to the fact, I can't be unacquainted with their having been widely propagated. Should it please God to remove me to-morrow, the Mass works already prepared for the Poor, would abundantly document the words of an honored & intimate friend, the concluding sentence of a Letter "All succeed a Monday: for if hard thinking, hard reading, and perseverant labor are merits, you have deserved it." - I might request a favor from you, my dear Sir! It would be that you would cast your eye thro' a few pages of my "Biogr. Amer. Library" If perchance not, this work is in your library - p. 190-221. Vol. I. - and the seven last pages of the second volume. -

One other remark.  
My dear Dr. and you shall be released. The spurs of our  
life are with God; I place no reliance on my ~~own~~ <sup>fancies</sup>, as well  
know that they are the fancies of a Sphynx, but if I do not trust  
my own fancies, I should hold it not improbable, that

This 200£ would suffice to bury me as well as to sustain me while alive. But even on the assumption, that some such sum must be received by me from some quarter, that on the prideless resignation of a Christian it would be my duty to receive it - yet there is a very estimation or wide difference between receiving it from half a dozen or even half a score Friends, who had long known & loved me, who had testified & repeated the innocence & simplicity of my life, and professed to hold themselves morally & intellectually unobliged to my writings and conversations - and accepting the same sum, in the dark as it were, from a Stranger who neither knows or thinks anything of me but my worth, and in the sense of the least exclusivity, without reference to or recognition of any merit, has been induced to consider it as an almsgiving grant. The two prayers of my heart - for thoughtful Societies, our earnest aspirations as soon as they are united with the sense of the Divine Presence become Prayers - the <sup>not</sup> time remaining Prayer. The one conditional, namely, if it should be for the <sup>adoption</sup> <sup>of my children</sup> <sup>of their church</sup> - The other, unconditional, - viz - that he who has hitherto sustained my life, may yet enable <sup>me to have the last few</sup> <sup>to the last</sup> works, so near their completion! and "not to forsake me in my old age, now I am gray-headed - until I have shewn his <sup>truth</sup> unto this generation, and the breadth, depth, and exceeding goodness of his Laws, ways, and dispensations to them that are yet fit to come" Psalm the 16. - The other is - to die in the faith in which I have lived, <sup>carrying</sup> hold of the promises of mercy in Christ, the trust in his perfect righteousness, prevailing over the sense of my own unworthiness.

Commanding myself respectfully to Dr. Kotly, and remembrance,  
I remain, my dear Sir, your obliged & grateful Friend & Servt,

S. T. Coleridge.

P.S. Friday afternoon, 3 June 1831.

I have this minute seen a paragraph from  
the Magazine, called the Englishman, in the Times <sup>of Today</sup> I am sure  
in yesterday's <sup>Intimating the strange mistreatment of the Times -</sup> Pro. Chronicle ~~Post~~, I need not repeat  
you, that this was written by publisher without my consent  
<sup>whole</sup> but <sup>I might, perhaps, to say</sup> ~~intended~~, that it has not been without  
surprise on my part - The Publishers threat of  
Hardman - having some month ago intimated to Mr  
Gillman, that a Lecture to the Englishman ~~had proposed~~  
to write an article <sup>on</sup> ~~on~~ the suppression of the P. S. L.  
Especially, in reference to <sup>case</sup> - I wished to know, whether  
I had <sup>applied</sup> letter to the Ministers or any of them, of what answer  
I had received - Mr Gillman at my urgent insistence  
wrote on Mr Hardman, from me - stating that I had (as  
was then the fact) sent no letter to the Minister or to  
Lord Brangham, consequently could have received no answer  
that in my judgement, any such article could do no good,  
and might work injuriously - but at all events, as personal  
favor I intreated, that my name should not be  
introduced, nor any allusion made to any expense  
that had been & should be, made in my publisher behalf.

S. T. Coleridge

"The remedial and prospective advantages of  
habitually contemplating Particulars in their universal  
or general Laws: the tendency of this habit at once to  
fix and to liberalize the morality of private life, at  
once to produce and to enlighten the spirit of public  
Zeal; and let me add, its especial utility in recalling  
the origin and primary import of the term, Generosity,  
to the hearts and thoughts of a Populace long tampered with  
by the Sophist and incendiaries of the Revolutionary Faction—  
These advantages I have felt it my duty and have made it my  
main object to enforce and illustrate during the whole period  
of my literary labors from earliest manhood to the present  
hour! Whatever may have been the specific theme of my  
communications and whether they relate to Politics, Religion,  
Poetry, or the Fine Arts, still Principles, their  
to a general, i.e. the greatest sophistry native to man &  
no the race, or such as their rank & kind are calculated to cheat.

subordination, their connection, and their application,  
in all the diversions of our tastes, duties, rules of conduct &  
schemes of belief, have constituted my chapter of  
contents."

Lay-sermon addressed to the Higher and Middle  
classes on the existing Distresses and Discontent: Introduction,  
p. VIII. - 1817.

This is in the handwriting of his  
old age.

"The Enclosed Slip" (see p. 2 of letter of June 3, 1851.)  
should be placed with the letter itself —

(28)