

THE MOORLANDS,
WOLDINGHAM,
SURREY.

25 April 1923.

Dear Sir,

If your letter had been 10 times as long, it would not have tired me; I am most grateful to you for writing so fully, & particularly for sending me a copy of that unpublished letter of Lamb's, which I welcomed with great joy, & have at once added to my collection. It is addressed to Richard Peake, who was for forty years treasurer of Drury Lane Theatre, & I think the date should be Thursday, Aug 16th 1827. I don't know if you saw the letter to Miss Kelly, published by S.M. Ellis in *The Saturday Review*, June 1915. One is dated Aug 15, 1827, & is also written on behalf of Miss Hobbs, asking Miss Kelly to speak a good word for her; & another dated 25 Sep. '27, says "our cordial thanks for your kindness to our strange-named friend." If you don't know these letters I shall have great pleasure in sending you copies. Your letter gives interesting details & is moreover addressed to a real correspondent - I never saw Peake's name mentioned before in connection with Lamb.

Then I am more than delighted to know that my hopeful guess was correct, about the post mark of that letter to John Taylor. Both the additons, what a lot of trouble they

give us by being so careless! If I do ever succeed in getting my collection printed (no chance of publishing it I'm afraid) I will try not to err in that way - You would be surprised at the number of corrections I have had to make even in Lucas's dating, & he is far better than Ainger or Hazlitt or Talfourd or Meddwell

The reason I so much wanted the date of that letter to be June 30th, & not July 30th, was because it then made the other letters of the period come right. The order

comes thus:

(1) To John Taylor, Maygate June 8th 1821 -

(2) " " " June 30th 1821. Here Lamb has received Elton's verses, but does not know who wrote them. Sends the unknown author a polite message, & suggests an alteration in one of the lines (By the bye I have always wondered that Lamb couldn't make sense of that line, & to me it is quite plain). Evidently therefore Taylor had sent Lamb the lines for his approval, as it were, before inserting them in the 'London.' Now as they appeared in the August no., obviously July 30th was too late

(3) A note to Ayton dated July 17, 1821.

(4) To Taylor, July 21, 1821, in which Lamb says "Thank's you for your extract from M^r ?'s letter! Here you see how important it was that your letter should be of earlier date than this - Lamb now knows who wrote those lines. Taylor sent Elton Lamb's message

had a polite letter back, & sent Lamb an extract from it.

- (5) An undated note to Taylor which I now think belongs to July 25th 1821, thanking for an invitation to venison. "I shall do myself the pleasure of waiting upon you on Friday". [unpublished]

This probably refers to Taylor & Henry's first dinner & their contributions, Friday July 27, 1821 -

- (6) Another unpublished letter to Taylor, of which I have only my memory version (I saw it at Puttich & Simons) date probably July 29, or 30 1821

"Is it to you, or to some other kind unknown, that I owe my safe arrival home on Friday night? I confess I have no knowledge of the manner how, or time when - etc.

"No more letters from me now till next Aug. 18th"

(The 18th was evidently the latest date for sending in contributions for the next month's issue)

You can see how that other letter would have intruded with all my nicely arranged notes, if I had been obliged to accept it as written on July 30th - I am so pleased it was June.

You say you think Mr. John A. Spou of Chicago would be willing to copy ^{for me} such unpublished letters of Lamb as he possesses. It seems too good to be true - Do you know him personally? Could you speak a word for me?

I have heard of him as a great Lamb collector, but have never ventured to write to him, it seemed so cheeky. I am interested to know he has the Wagon portrait.

I thought perhaps you would like to have this photo of one which Mr. Spencer unearthed from his storehouse a few weeks ago - You will see that it is different from any of the others, but it isn't thought to be actually from the life, tho' Mr. Milner of the National Portrait gallery says it is pretty certainly contemporary, & he remembered an album of similar sketches being brought to him before the war - He thought the name of the artist was Edward White-Harrison - How funny enough Lamb's friend Edward White of the India House was an enthusiastic amateur artist, & moreover he owned the Hazlitt portrait of Lamb for several years -

This pencil sketch is remarkably like the Hazlitt portrait looking the reverse way, & put in to ordinary dress, so it seems quite possible that White amused himself with making a fancy sketch of his friend, with the Hazlitt portrait to guide him. Spencer says it has been lost in his shop for years - quite 25, & he can only remember that it was torn out of an old album - He is very kind to me & lets me have this photo'd or copied as much as I like, & in return I supply him with little bits of information to add interest to his Lamb items.

No, I don't know the catalogue of Harry B. Smith, tho' I know his name very well. Is it possible to get hold

for a copy of the catalogue? I should like to have one very much. Thank you so much for giving me a list of the letters. I know them all, I think. The one to W^m Colburn, Sep 18, 1810, is in the B.B. edition. But

I like to be able to put a note against the letters to say they belonged to Harry B. Smith

Your bibliographical discovery is awfully interesting. I have only the shrunken edition by John Duffie Wilson, ^(4th ed. 1827) but I know of the other one - I have never seen the Ackermann book of 1816, & of course, as you say, that must be the first appearance of Lamb's "Recollections of Christ's Hospital". Thomson's Bibliography doesn't even give the Wilson book, much less Ackermann.

Won't you some day extend your Lamb bibliography & make a separate book of it? We haven't really a complete one at all, as Livingston doesn't (I think) include periodical literature, & I don't think Thomson was much more than a compiler of other people's discoveries - Besides there have been some more things unearthed in recent years I believe.

I have just got hold of Lamb's Dramatic Essays, edited by Brande Matthews. I see he includes "Mundin's Farewell" but I could pretty well swear it was not written by Lamb.

The flavour is quite different, tho' the writer was obviously an admirer of Lamb's style. I think it was Talfourd.

Now you must be tired, & no mistake, but your letter was so full of good matter, I couldn't help letting my pen run away with me. Many thanks again from yours sincerely

J. A. Anderson