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(R17)

A. J. Coleridge
Stowey
Near Bridgewater
Somerset



Postmark Aug 24 1797

Poor Charles Lloyd came to me about a fortnight ago. He took the opportunity of Mr Hawkes coming to London, & I think at his request, to come with him - It seemed to me, & he acknowledged it, that he had come to gain a little time & a little peace, before he made up his mind. He was a good deal perplexed what to do - wishing earnestly that he had never entered into engagements which he felt himself unable to fulfill, but which on Sophia's account he could not bring himself to relinquish - I could give him little advice or comfort, & feeling my own inability painfully, eagerly snatched at a proposal he made me to go to Southey's with him for a day or two. He then meant to return with me, who could stay only one night. While there, he at one time thought of going to consult you, but changed his intention & stayed behind with Southey, & wrote an explicit letter to Sophia. I came away on the Tuesday, & on the Saturday following, last Saturday, received a letter dated Bath, in which he said he was

on his way to Birmingham. That Southey
was accompanying him, — & that he went
for the purpose of persuading Sophia to a
Scotch marriage — —

I greatly feared, that she
would never consent to this, from what
Elizabeth had told me of her character.
But waited most anxiously the result.
Since then I have had not one letter —
For God's sake, if you get any intelligence
of or from Elizabeth, communicate
it, for I am much alarmed —

Chamb

I wrote to Burnett what I write now
to you, — was it from him you heard
or elsewhere? — —

He said if he had come to you, he
could never have brought himself to
leave you. In all his distress he
was sweetly & exemplarily calm &
master of himself, — & seemed perfectly
free from this disorder

How do you all at ?