

London May 26 1810
11th Mo
Joseph Collett Esq
Green Bazaar
St. Pauls Church
9377

(Charles Lamb.)

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My dear Sir,

I am quite ashamed of not having
acknowledg'd your second kind present earlier. But
that unknown something, which was never yet discover'd, though
so often speculated upon, which stands in the way of
Lazy folks' answering letters, has presented its usual
obstacle. It is not forgetfulness, nor disrespect, nor
incivility - but horribly like all these bad things -

I have been in my time a great Epistolar
Tribbler, but the passion (& with it the facility)
at length wears out, & it must be pumped up again
by the heavy machinery of Duty, or Gratitude, when it
should run free. -

I have read your Poems with as
much pleasure (I cannot say more) as I did
the first Messiah, first I mean in order of reading.

