

My Dear Sir

My brother Henry will return to Normantone in the course of a few days. he has been visiting at Bath, & this has been one cause of an improper delay. I find him very greatly improved in every respect, indeed more so than I could have ventured to hope. it has not been in my power to continue his studies, we have not been under the same roof, & the state of my health condemns me to exercise & idleness. I have however seen enough of his acquisitions to be truly thankful for the attention which you must have bestowed upon him.

I thank you also Sir for noticing a tendency which it is of the utmost importance that he should subdue. I have myself observed the same fault & endeavoured to counteract it ~~rather~~ by example, & conversations so indirect that he himself must feel rather than perceive their object. immediate precepts would produce only a painful feeling & a momentary effect. But he is not always with me, & I am sorry to perceive that his other relatives want the thought & the steadiness to check his thoughtlessness. my endeavours have been directed to impress upon him that without habits of frugality, it will be difficult to preserve integrity, & impossible to attain independence.

My health is considerably amended. I believe the use of the extraordinary gas discovered by my friend Davy has been greatly beneficial to me. but it is only from change of climate that I can expect

To
The Reverend Mr. Lawrence
Normantone
near Abchurch
Suffolk.
Single.

BRISTOL

2086 in 926

July 1800

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complete recovery. Whether I shall wait till the Autumn & then revisit
Portugal, or employ the summer in travelling thro Vienna to Trieste
is yet undetermined. If our wise governors had acted with common
honesty or common sense France & Italy would have been open - to
Italy indeed there is still access, but that country will probably again
become the seat of war & I should not willingly trust myself among
our Russian allies.

with respects to Mr M. believe me

Yrs thankfully & sincerely

Feb 27. 1809. Kingdon Bristol. Robert Southey.

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SOUTHEY, ROBERT. A.L.S. 1½ pp., lto, w. ad. sh., docketed. Bristol;
Feb. 7, 1800. To M. Maurice. \$65.00

Thanking the clergyman for the improvement in his brother Henry's and remarking, "my endeavours have been directed to impress upon him that without habits of frugality, it will be difficult to reserve integrity, & impossible to retain independence (sic). He speaks of his health and its improvement from "...the use of the extraordinary gas discovered by my friend Davy," and the possibility of his going to Portugal but not to Italy because, "that country will probably again become the seat of war, & I should not willingly trust myself among our Russian allies."