

My dear friend

I have received since my last the very welcome intelligence from my brother Tom that he & his ship return to England with the May convoy; what time he may be expected is doubtful, because just at the same time I learnt from a brother of Bedford's who is in the Admiralty that the Amelia was coming home with the June convoy. The difference in these accounts may perhaps be reconciled by supposing that in the West Indies it is called the May convoy because it sails in May, & in England the June one because it is expected to arrive in June. Tom thinks the frigate must go into dock to receive a thorough repair & in that case hopes to get a months leave of absence.

Harry graduates the 24th of this month & leaves Edinburgh as soon afterwards as possible. His remaining expences of graduation & his printers bill amount to ~~about~~ sixteen pounds, ~~but he has not in his pocket more than a few shillings~~ fellow students to get on. This I have learnt so late that he must now needs wait some days longer in Scotland than would else be needful, before you can reach him with a remittance. The reason is that Edith & I & your god-daughters have been for the last ten days visiting abroad & his wife, near Ambleside; & the post hence to Keswick is only seventeen miles, a letter is rather longer in travelling that distance than it is in getting to London. He knew any intended movements & as he did not recollect them when he directed his letter, must attribute the inconvenience as a necessary & not unfit consequence of forgetfulness.

I have been looking long for a letter from you, - perhaps there may be one lingering on the way from Keswick, or I may find one there on my return. Evans has not yet replied to my letter. I suppose he is waiting to dispossess the old curate at Midsummer, & thinks it better to delay writing till then.

he may tell me the thing is done.

My printer & I travel on together smoothly. I have corrected seven proofs, & daily expect the eighth. Twelve & a half make the volume of 300 pages, as much in all conscience as can be given for five shillings. At this rate the three volumes may be completed in November; & as in this case there is nobody to be depended upon but myself, & the Printer is a steady man, who makes a promise binding in his conscience, I shall be mistaken if any delays take place which it would be possible to avoid. - "I break off the thread of the East Indian history to continue solely with the home history for this reason. These collateral matters to be gleaned from Portuguese books respecting their Indian possessions is little or nothing; - but of the domestic history very much is only to be got at in that way, & it is desirable to get on as far as possible before I go over, that I may know as precisely as possible in what the regular & printed documents are deficient, & what specific information ought to be sought for. In the Indies I have come down to the death of Nunko de Cunha; & in the other divisions have just reached the death of Joam F. I shall go straight on with Sebastian. Henriquez short reign is written, & the struggle had by Antonio, as far as Conestaggio goes down with it; an author in more estimation with us than he is with the Portuguese. I found a little French volume upon his history written by a Madame Gomez, which had furnished Lessing with some opportunity of triumphing over a German historian of Portugal. It is in itself of little value, but it gives the story of the Pruss partisans more fully than I have seen it elsewhere, & I was glad that I had made use of the book when I heard what use Lessing had made of it. - One of the most curious parts of the work will be that which develops the former intrigues of the Anti-Castilian party, during the Spanish usurpation; & of course this will be one of the most difficult to fill up. I have collected some facts, & have thought I can see my way distinctly."

Last Thursday I dined at the Bishop of Landaffs, & was well pleased with him. I liked him the better for having heard that he always protested his exceeding repugnance at the prosecution of Gilbert Wakefield. His conversation was in a tone of exceeding liberality - even more than appears to me quite congruous with his silk apron; for certainly the articles of his faith are not all to be found among the nine & thirty; nor all the nine & thirty to be found among his. He paid me some handsome compliments upon *Madoc*, & among others that of showing me that he had read it very carefully, by mentioning a few verbal defects - as they had appeared to him.

My daughter was so delighted with the new gown which Mrs May sent her, that I thought it expedient to inform her that new gowns were among the pomps & vanities of this wicked world; - a warning which, as you may perhaps suppose, has not made her a whit the less proud of it.

In about three months I hope she will have ~~brother~~ or sister. - Edith desires to be remembered to yourself, & to whom I also beg my remembrances.

God bless you

Yrs affectionately

Robert Southey.

June 18. 1806.

No news of Coleridge!



10 o'clock
JUN 21
1806 F.N.H.

Rec
1/15
2/15
1810
have contents
←

To

John May Esq

Richmond

Surry.

Single.

RECEIVED

///

X

119 1804
Cecil Court
St Pauls Church
London
18th July
1806