

If you print my lines to him from the Album verses, I will send you a corrected copy. - You received his letters, I trust, which Butcher took with him to leave in October. I wish they had been more, I wish also that I had more to tell you concerning him, & what I have told were of more value. But it is from such fragments of recollection, & such imperfect notices that the materials for biography must for the most parts, be collected.

Yours very truly
Robert Southey.

To

Edward Hoar, Esq

My Dear

E. Hoar

to

M^r Southey's letter

Keewick 2 Feb^r 1836

My dear Sir

I have been too closely engaged in clearing off the second volume of Cooper to reply to your enquiries concerning poor Lamb sooner. His acquaintance with Coleridge began at Christ's Hospital; Lamb was some two years (I think) his junior; whether he was ever one of the Grecians there, might be ascertained I suppose by enquiry; my own impression is that he was not. Coleridge introduced me to him in the winter of 1794-5. & to George Dyer also, - from whom if his memory has not failed, you might probably learn more of Lamb's early history than from any other person. Lloyd, Wordsworth and Hazlitt became known to him thro' their connections with Coleridge.

When I saw the family (one evening only, & at that time) they were lodging somewhere near Lincoln Inn, at the western side - I forget the street, - & were evidently in uncomfortable circumstances. The Father & Mother were both living, & I have some dim recollection of the latter invalid appearance. The Father's senses had failed him before that time. He published some poem in quarto, Lamb showed me once an imperfect copy, the Sparrows wedding was the title of the longest piece, & this was the Father's favourite; he liked in his dotage, to hear Charles read it.

His most familiar friend, when I first saw him, was White, who held some office at Christ's Hospital, & continued intimate with him as long as he lived. - You know what Elia says of him,

He & Lamb were joint Authors of the Original Letters of Falstaff.
Lamb I believe first appeared as an author in the second edition
of Coleridge's Poems, (Bristol 1797) - & secondly in the little volume
of Blank Verse with Lloyd, 1798. Lamb, Lloyd & White were
inseparable in 1798, - the two latter at one time lodged together,
- but no two men could be imagined more unlike each other.
Lloyd had no drollery in his nature, - White seemed to
have nothing else, you will easily understand how Lamb could
sympathise with both.

Lloyd who used to form sudden friendships, was all but a
stranger to me, when unexpectedly he brought Lamb down
to visit me at a little village (Burton) near Christ-
Church in Hampshire, when I was lodging in a very humble
cottage. This was in the summer of 1797, - & then - or in the
following year, my correspondence with Lamb began. I
saw more of him in 1808 than at any other time. - for I was
then six months resident in London. His visit to this country
was before I came to it, it must have been either in that
or the following year. It was to Lloyd, - & to Coleridge

I had forgotten one of his schoolfellows who is still living,
C. V. Le Grice, a clergyman, at or near Pezance, from him
you might learn something of his boyhood.

Cottle has a good likeness of Lamb, in chalk, by an
artist named Robert Hancock about the year 1798; - it
looks older than Lamb was at that time, - but he would
looking.

Coleridge introduced him to Godwin. shortly after the
first number of the Anti Jacobine Magazine & Review was
published, with a caricature of Gillray's, in which Coleridge
& I were introduced with Rose's heads, & Lloyd & Lamb as

Toad & Frog. Lamb got warmed with whatever was on the table,
because disputations, I said things to Godwin which made him
quietly say Pray Mr Lamb are you Toad & Frog? Mr Coleridge
will remember the scene which was to her sufficiently uncomforta-
-ble. But the next morning J. J. C. called on Lamb, & found
Godwin breakfasting with him, - from which time their
intimacy began.

His angry letter to me in the Magazine arose out of a notion
that an expression of mine in the *PK* would hurt the sale
of *Elia*; - some one no doubt had said that it would. I
meant to serve the book, - I very well remember how the offence
happened, - I had written that it wanted nothing to render
it altogether delightful, - but a sarner religious
feeling. This would have been the proper word
if any other person had written the book. Feeling

its extreme unfitness as soon as it was written, I altered it
immediately for the first word which came into my head,
intending to remodel the sentence when it should come to me
in the proof, - & that proof never came. There can be no objection
to your printing all that passed upon the occasion, beginning
with the passage in the Quarterly Review & giving his letter, but
my part there was not ever a momentary feeling of anger;
I was very much surprised; I was grieved - because I knew how
much he would condemn himself & yet no resentful letter was
ever written less offensively, - his gentle nature may be seen in it
throughout.

I have heard Coleridge say that in a fit of derangement
Lamb fancied himself to be young Perceval. He told me this
in relative to one of his poems