

Coleridge

1831



Mr. J. M. G. G. G.

Lower Broadway Street



My dear Sir

A metastatic fit, or fall-in, of my nervous
Rheumatism, which occurred on the same day with the receipt of
your Note, or rather the sickness, faintness, and inquietude
consequent on and symptomatic of these caprices of the Nerves,
must be my apology for having allowed so many days to pass
without any record of my thanks to you for the undelaying
promptness with which you placed my letter to the L. Chancellor
in his Lordship's own hands. Could I, indeed, have expressed
my sense of your friendly service without reference to the
contents of your Note, all as I was, I should have replied on
the instant. But I was jealous of the possible influence,
which the extreme depression of Spirits incident to my complaint
might exercise on my judgment; and even on the ground
of respect to you - not to mention others, who without my
knowledge have, I find, taken a similar friendly interest in
this affair, I was most anxious that my determination
should be such as might stand the test of my Reason,
and Sense of Duty - such as might be sanctioned by the
Conscience at that hour, when the feelings whether of pride
or of tenderness, with all that had stirred them, will be as Toys
by the bed-side of a sick and mourning child. Thus I believe
myself now capable of doing; and therefore, having once more

returned thanks & yourself for your kind wishes, friendly intentions, and prompt efforts in my cause. I beg leave thro' you to convey, both to the S. Chancellor and Lord Grey, my grateful acknowledgements of the prompt attention, which my case has received from their Lordships, and my due appreciation of the humane desire, carried by them, to prevent or obviate ~~the immediate~~ ^{withdrawing} distress or embarrassment, in which the sudden, and unforeseen ^{disruption} ~~interposition~~ of the honor and honorarium of a Royal Associate of the Royal Society of Literature might otherwise involve me, by a private grant from the Treasury of £200: but that I beg leave most respectfully to decline it.

This, my dear Sir, as all, I presume, that it is necessary for me, or that it would be becoming in me, to say to their Lordships. But to You I seem to myself to owe a statement of the reasons that have actuated me to this decision, and at some future opportunity, God granting any such, I hope to do this at full. But for the present let it suffice to remind you, that at no period of my life have I ever attached myself, or in fact belonged to any Party, religious or political - that I have never labored for any lower purpose than the establishment of Principles, the discovery or determination of Laws - (see the enclosed scribble). But tho' neither Whig nor Tory, I am enough of the latter, I trust, sincerely and

*. a money of what was (if I understand Lord Brougham's will aright) to be entrusted to me immediately, on discharge of any obligations for the liquidation of which I had ^{been} on the 105th, that should have been received on the first of last month - viz. 1 May, 1831. the other 100th to be held in reserve by you, & bestowed on me the year following.

8.5.31

naturally to fear God: and to honor the King, as ordained of God - i.e. as no reflection or derivation from the (pretended) Sovereignty of the People, but as the lawful Representative, the consecrated Symbol of the Unity and Majesty of the Nation; and therefore, with all the possible reverence and respect that can be felt toward a Nobleman personally or through to me, I cannot but find a most essential difference between a private donation from Lord Grey, and a public honor and stipend conferred on me by my Sovereign in mark of approval of the objects and purposes to which I had devoted, and was continuing to devote the power and talents entrusted to me. From the latter to the former would be indeed a περισσος ετις αλλο γενοσ.

At my first presentation to the Royal Society of Literature I publicly stated - that I received "the appointment with glad and grateful feelings, as graciously confirming me in the assurance, that I had not mistaken my vocation, retrospectively: and prospectively as a means of enabling me to give my whole time and entire power to the completion of those more important works, for which I regarded all, I had hitherto attempted, whether ever done or by the Press, but as a preparatory discipline: and I ended ^{with} the same remark on the two orders of men of Letters, the distribution & popularization of knowledge already in the possession of London, and the advancement or perfection of the knowledge itself, with which I concluded my last note to you, accompanying my letter to the Chancellor. - Further:

in this letter to Lord Brougham I did not indeed hesitate to avow my Poverty. But grievously have I been misunderstood, if I have been supposed to plead that Poverty, for itself and independent of its causes, as the ground of my application.

" The remedial and prospective advantages of
habitually contemplating Particulars in their universal
or general Laws: the tendency of this habit at once to
fix and to liberalize the morality of private life, at
once to produce and to enlighten the spirit of public
Zeal; and let me add, its especial utility in recalling
the origin and primary import of the term, Generosity;
to the hearts and thoughts of a Populace long tampered with
by the Sophists and incendiaries of the Revolutionary Faction—
these advantages I have felt it my duty and have made it my
main object to enforce and illustrate during the whole period
of my literary labors from earliest manhood to the present
hour! Whatever may have been the specific theme of my
communications and whether they related to Politics, Religion,
Poetry, or the Fine Arts, still Principles, their
a generic, i.e. the qualities supposed native to man of
the Race, or such as their Rank & kind are calculated to elicit.

subordination, their connection, and their application, in all the divisions of our tastes, duties, rules of conduct, & schemes of belief, have constituted my Chapter I Contents."

Lay sermon addressed to the Higher and Middle Classes on the existing Distresses and Discontent: Introduction, p. VIII. - 1817.

This is in the handwriting of his
old age.

"The Enclosed Scrip" (see p. 2 of letter of June 3, 1851.)
should be placed with the letter itself —

28