

## **Papers relating to Thomas Arthur Coltman [known as Arthur Coltman]**

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1897

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1<sup>st</sup> letter from A.C. -  
received Sunday Nov 14<sup>th</sup> 1884  
no 14<sup>th</sup> 1884  
no I

W. Challinor Esq -

Sir Feeling that my  
position & behaviour (for which  
I tender my humble apologies)  
require an explanation, I beg  
to write what, in the absence  
of sufficient moral courage,  
I cannot say -

As you know, I am in love  
with your younger daughter,  
& with a view to gaining  
my heart's desire, I beg to



make the following statement -  
From what you told me, &  
also from my own judgement -  
(correct or incorrect) I state  
it that you wish to provide  
a permanent home &  
occupation for your younger  
Son -

When interviewing you, you  
mentioned that you did not  
want the business -

I beg to propose that I invest  
sufficient money to buy  
a half share, which I am  
in a position to do, & that

he takes the other half,

everything to be equally divided.

I consider the business with  
proper care & attention will bring  
in a profit of £500 or £250  
apiece - & this ought to be  
increased -

I am prepared to put forth  
all my energies to bring  
about this result & also

if you think it worth while

to take the Major -

If this is at all in accordance  
with your views, I shall be



only too pleased to enter into  
partnership with him - & think  
we could work together in an  
amicable & friendly manner,  
Of course if I am mistaken, then I  
wish to leave you on the best of  
terms, this day month.

I have experienced the greatest  
kindness from you, & it would  
ill become me to take advantage  
of my position in any way -  
Again apologising for my  
conduct & awaiting your  
reply. Believe me.

Yours sincerely  
T. A. Colman



1st  
letter to

Miss Daisy Challice)

Nov 16<sup>th</sup> 97

~~no 2~~

L.

Miss Daisy Challice,

In the first place  
kindly excuse the above  
commonplace heading, I rest  
assured that it in no way  
represents the state of my  
feelings towards you.

I do not know if you are  
aware of the fact, but I  
have on three occasions, asked

Mr Challice to be allowed  
to speak to you & declare  
my intentions, etc -



On Sunday night I wrote  
to him, offering to purchase  
a half share in the business,  
whilst I thought your younger  
brother George, could take the  
other half & we could work the  
business jointly, profits to  
be equally divided,  
I believe we could work together  
very well indeed: we have  
done so for some time.

My Past has been a somewhat  
chagrined one in some  
respects: I may say that  
I have had to leave 6

different businesses because

I refused to make love to order

(Here a large blot)

Please excuse blots - it has  
no connection with the  
lacrimal glands -

I looked in at the station  
this morning & found I had  
lost 11 lbs in weight during  
the last nine days. If this  
sort of thing continues, the  
Röntgen rays, will be no  
use whatever - I shall  
simply evaporate into  
thin air.



I may say that my past  
life has been perfectly free  
from any love affair; something  
has been telling me to wait  
& I have done so feeling  
assured that I should meet  
my destiny.

Well, about 2 hours after your  
arrival, I had a bad accident—  
knocked head over ears in  
love with you; it gets <sup>more</sup> ~~worse~~  
intense every day, till the  
amount of sleep I get at  
night is painfully small,

I herewith beg to offer you  
my hand in marriage,  
& hope that should you  
consent to make me happy  
~~it~~ it will be the perfection of  
wedded bliss.

Mr. Challice tells me he 'put  
the question plainly to you,  
— Did you love me? &  
that your answer was  
"Certainly not", but I  
cannot believe that my



eyes & ears have deceived  
me during the last 10 days.

With regard to the future  
I am very anxious to spare  
you any pain & annoyance  
& can soon get another  
situation in town - if  
desirous to you,

Anxiously awaiting your  
reply Believe me

Yours sincerely  
J. A. Coltrane

ed

days.

to

to spare

my hand

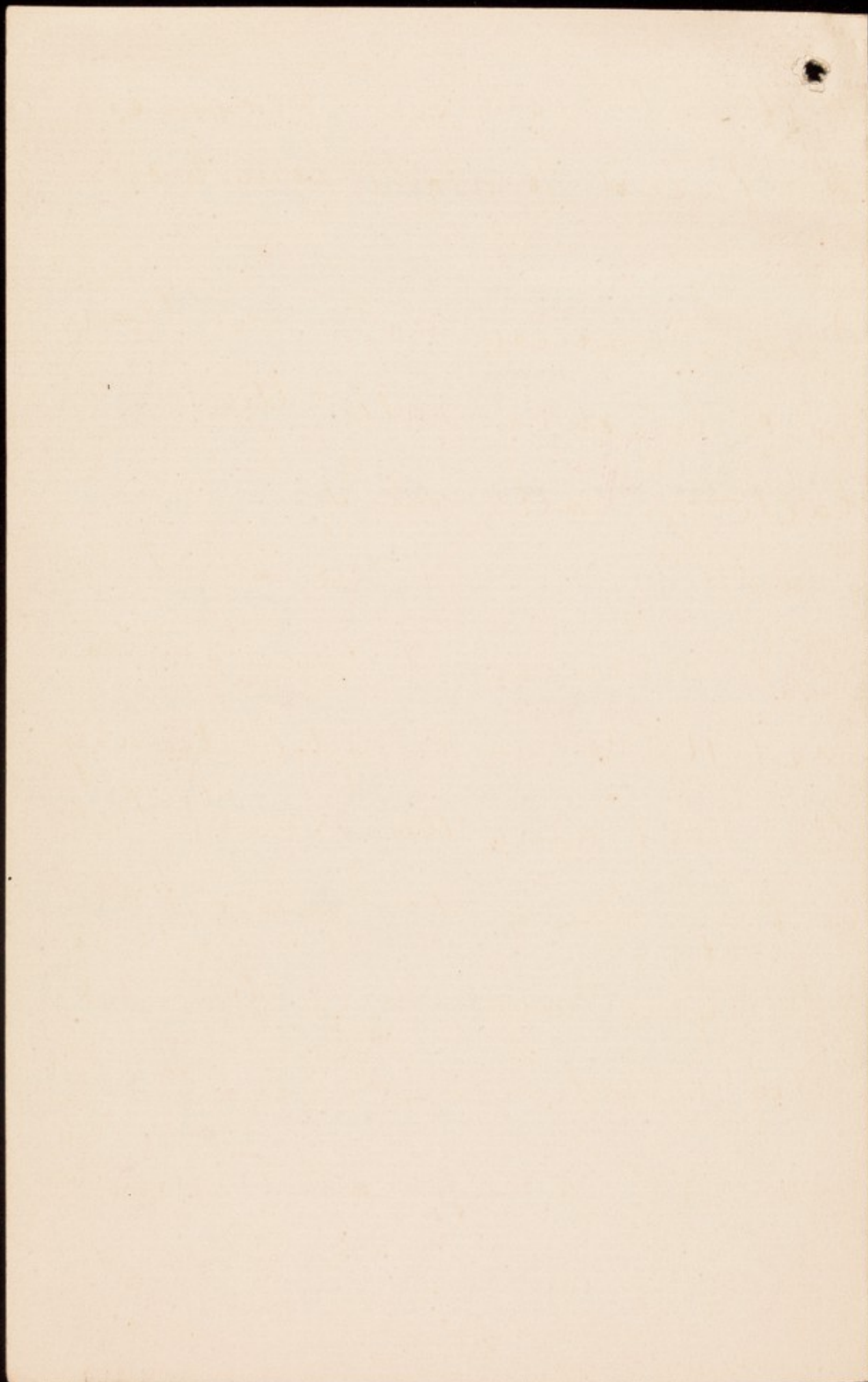
in

of

now

for





~~No 2~~  
To W. Chalice Esq - <sup>14</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> Dec.  
(Date Nov. ~~16~~ <sup>14</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> Dec.)

My dear Sir

I am afraid I did not quite realise your object yesterday, in sending for a *Locum Tenens* -

I now beg to make the following proposition -

My views & wishes, as regards your youngest daughter I have already gone into - both to you & Mrs Chalice -

Yesterday morning you taunted me with being a sordid fortune seeker, I forgive you that for her sake -



I propose to call on you at  
11 o'clock this day & ask your  
permission to become engaged  
to her, on condition that I  
immediately take train to  
Scarboro' & obtain sufficient  
capital to enable me to buy  
a half share of the business.  
If my friends will not give  
me it - I believe our family  
Solicitor will advance me it -  
I would enclose his name for  
reference, but it has quite  
slipped my memory - as I  
have left my home 11 years.  
However if you wish I will

forward it at once from  
Scarborough -

The following gentlemen will  
I have no doubt give you  
the fullest particulars as to  
my past career family etc.  
I was 8 years pupil with

The Rev<sup>d</sup>. E. Richardson

High School

Thurish -

& he has known me all his life,  
or rather my life, seeing he  
is getting an old man now -

The Rev<sup>d</sup>. Geo. Gill

Thurish -

knows me, but the family  
in particular —



The Bishop of Hull -  
resident at Scarborough can  
speak as to my family

I have just remembered the  
name of our family Solicitor

Mr. Richardson  
Solicitor

Thurish -

Mr. A. Thomas

London College of Divinity  
Highbury - N

has known me at Eastbourne.  
And lastly I think if you  
write either of my references,  
with very special stress

on my personal character,  
If you cared to run out  
& see Mr. Korland at  
Ypsing, I have no doubt  
he will give you satisfaction.  
I may say that I believe I  
have understood your  
impediment all along -  
& if you think that will  
influence me one atom

you are utterly mistaken -  
(= I take it that this refers to Mr  
Challie telling Mr. Colman that my  
daughter was already engaged - E. Challie)  
In conclusion if you imagine  
any person in his proper



senses could baffle with  
the heart of a young lady  
like your daughter, all I  
can say is you have grown  
(I will put it the wrong way)  
I mean she has grown  
up with you & you do not  
realise her charms & goodness,  
I repeat that I am hopelessly  
in love for the first time  
in my life & I beseech you  
to be careful how you  
separate us —

Should you honor me with  
your consent to our marriage  
at a future period to be left  
entirely in your hands, it  
will be my lifelong  
endeavour, with God's help  
to shield her, love her, &  
devote myself to compassing  
her happiness.

Believe me

Yours sincerely

J. A. Coltrane

over //



This letter was received the day  
after Mr. Colman left us -  
together with one to my daughter

Thursday morning.  
18<sup>th</sup> Nov

Gaulthiers Hotel.

No 4

My dear Mrs Challice -

I left a short note  
this morning & I fear that  
you have possibly mistaken  
my meaning -

(he left some writing on a scrap of  
paper saying he had forgotten  
a pair of boots) -

I ask you in consideration  
of my health, to settle  
this matter promptly,  
every word I have spoken



& every word written  
has been carefully weighed.  
I am absolutely certain  
that if anything prevents  
my marrying your daughter  
it will mean my death,  
please do not give me  
another awful shock  
like you did yesterday  
I was refused admittance  
yesterday, but I tell

you that the person  
who is going to come between  
me & the only love I  
have ever had - is  
not born - I entreat  
you to put me out of

my suspense

Make an appointment

& I will ask your permission


& your alone that will

be quite sufficient,



Believe me yours Sincerely

J. A. Collman



2 letters  
to Miss D. Challen  
received Monday  
after he left

52 Westborough  
Scarborough.

Nov 21<sup>st</sup> 97.

My dear little Daisy

Got a telegram from

my Mother yesterday morning  
saying she was ill - so I  
arrived here at 11 last night,

I have arranged everything  
in the most satisfactory  
manner, so now I propose  
to stay here until I hear  
further from you -

I am afraid they found  
me rather a handful, at  
Laulkner's Hotel.



I don't think my brother  
told me everything by  
any means - am afraid  
I have been a dreadful  
worry, but there "all's well  
that ends well" & "the course  
of true love never did run  
smooth" - I think my  
brother's illness was  
principally caused by  
my account & we have  
had it all out to-day -  
What are the arrangements?  
I declared they will have

to introduce us again, it is  
so long since I saw you, &  
have almost forgotten what

you are like -

My kind regards to Mr. Chatter

I am afraid I have been  
mispredging him very  
much, but trust he will  
let bygones be bygones -

By the way, What do  
you think of Scarborough  
for the honeymoon?

Hope it's going to be all



honey-moon, don't see why  
it should not, anywhere it  
takes two to make a quarrel  
& this individual has  
not the slightest intention  
of going into that kind  
of partnership -

Do you know, the morning  
I wrote to Mr Challice,  
I had a most curious  
experience, but of that  
more anon.

Well do hurry it up, I am  
getting tired of walking  
about by myself -

my brothers wish me to  
let them show me round  
but I cannot somehow.

I declare everyone within  
half a mile of Villiers Street  
knows me, & the amount  
of nods I got from people  
I had never seen before.  
was perfectly astounding.

Our family doctor has just  
been down to see Mother,  
& invited me to dinner,  
"declined with thanks"



I prefer to sit gruelly at  
over the fire & smoke in  
the good old way (like a boy)

I am afraid I have been  
most impertinent to day  
but things have run most  
smoothly altogether -

I saw you go down to the  
train on Friday night  
& could not keep away  
got out at Westminster  
however -

Hope we shall shortly get to  
the third verse of that  
Grand old Song, that  
used to lull me to sleep,  
if it did not keep me  
awake - I trust you will  
forgive my haste, you see  
I have been waiting so long  
weary years & think I  
deserve my reward -  
Going to the Parish Church  
to-morrow to ask God's blessing  
on our union -



with fondest love

Yours only

Arthur

Just puffing a cigarette  
just to show you I am  
still youthful - sort of  
perfume one has to get  
acclimatized to.

52 Westborough  
Scarborough.

Sunday Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>

My dear Mr. Challice

I have just found  
out the reason my people  
will not finance me, it  
seems Our family Doctor  
has been keeping me in  
view with regards to a firm  
He as Doctor, my Brother  
Dentist & I the Chemist,  
My friends called him  
in this morning -



under pressure of visiting  
my Mother & they have  
been trying to alter my  
decision with regards to  
leaving Chemistry -  
Now the day dream of my  
life, has been to take Holy  
Orders - lately I have received  
several distinct calls &  
on the morning when I  
wrote you, asking the hand  
of your daughter in

marriage, I could doubt  
no longer. I have talked  
it over with my friends,  
& my Mother, who was  
previously against it  
is my best supporter.  
My friends are now quite  
willing to send me to  
College, giving me a  
large portion of my share,  
so that I propose that



when all is over, I enter  
a College, the best in the  
Country, I was hoping to  
take my degree, the rest  
I leave entirely with you,  
I shall be glad of an  
early reply,

With kindest regards to  
all. Believe me.

Yours sincerely  
J. A. Colburn.

P. S.

There is an old Proverb. "Change the  
name & not the letter is a change  
for the worse & not the better, but  
let me hope this will be an exception  
to the rule, Anthon. J. A. Birckbeck  
would be a change - You will observe  
I should still be a "Piss in Boots"

J - A - B



Letters from  
Mr. T. A. Colman  
to Mr. W. Challice  
and his daughter,  
Daisy.

Nov. 1897

Colman  
Challice

I.9

Dr. J. H. Thorpe

16

(Copies of letters)

1897





