

M0008716: Letter from Dr. James Gillman to Joseph Cottle: first and back pages

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I find Notices
in Mr. Coleridge's
memoranda & other
books shewing the
symptoms of this
fatal disease nearly
40 years before
he died.

Ann Gilman
1848.

Dear Sir,

Your last letter left me with the impression
that from a long acquaintance with your name,
(for Coleridge often and always spoke of you with a
kindness amounting to affection,) I had addressed
you too familiarly as a stranger, or had not expressed
myself with sufficient clearness, to make my purpose
in writing sufficiently obvious. From an expression
in your first letter, I am induced to give you
some short account of Mr. Coleridge's bodily sufferings
and their physical causes, which sufferings at
the last, were agonizing to himself and those
about him. After Mr. Coleridge's decease, his body
was inspected by two able anatomists, appointed
by Mr. Green; a task too painful for either him
or me to perform. The left side of the chest was
nearly occupied by the heart, which was immensely
enlarged, and the sides of which were so thin as
not to be able to sustain its weight when raised.
The right side of the chest was filled with a fluid
inclosed in a membrane having the appearance
of a cyst, amounting in quantity to upwards
of three quarts, so that the lungs on each side