

M0008717: Letter from Dr. James Gillman to Joseph Cottle: middle two pages

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were completely compensated - This will account sufficiently for his bodily sufferings, which were almost without intermission during the progress of the disease, and will explain to you the necessity of subduing these sufferings by narcotics, and of driving on a most feeble circulation by stimulants, which his case had imperatively demanded - This disease, which is generally of slow progress, had its commencement in Coleridge more than 30 years before his death - To the general observer his disease masked itself; and his bodily sufferings were hidden by his fortitude & resignation, and the extraordinary power he had of apparently overcoming and drowning them as it were in "fervid colloquy" In constant prayer he sought that support given to those who in humility & in earnest ask for aid - He felt severely the indifference & neglect of that family and those friends who ought to have been proud of being connected with such a Being - Even an unkind look from those he loved was a dagger to him - But he is gone to seek his recompense!

I once asked Chas Lamb, a few days after Coleridge's death, who as you well know

was his schoolfellow, to write a short memoir. His answer was, "I could not attempt it. I should suffer as much while writing, as if I saw him die!" - When you, my dear Sir, kindly offered to do it, I evaded a reply lest I should impose on you too painful a task - Now, in the name of Mr. Green - I beg to solicit for his perusal, and for his use as Exor. for he it is, who has accepted this responsible and laborious office - copies of those letters of Mr. Coleridge's in your possession, which you before kindly promised to give me, and which may be beneficial to that part of the family for which I am one of the trustees only; - and I am emboldened to repeat this application in consequence of an observation made by Mr. Poole - Hoping you will perform the promise you once made me, at your earliest convenience, remain Dear Sir,
with esteem -

Highgate
2 November 1835.

Wm. Jos. Little Esq.
Bodminster
Bristol

Yr. obliged obed. serv^t
James Zeteman