

X not printed

[Sept, 1802]

Dear Colvidge

I have read your silly very silly letter & between laughing & crying I hardly know how to answer it. You are too serious & too kind a vast deal, for we are not much used to either seriousness or kindness from our present friends and <sup>your</sup> letter has put me into a greater hurry of spirits than your pleasant Segar did last night for believe me your two odd faces amused me much more than the mighty transgression vexed me. If Charles had not smoked last night his virtue would have not lasted longer than tonight, and now perhaps with a little of your good counsel he will refrain. But be not too serious if he smokes all the time you are with us - a few cheerful evenings spent with you serves to bear up our spirits many a long & weary year. and the very being led unto the ~~the~~ crime by your Segar that you thought so harmless, will serve for our amusement many a dreary hour when we can get

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Mr Colvidge



no letter nor hear no tidings of you. —

You must positively must ~~either~~ write to Mr Coleridge  
this day, and you must write here that I may know  
you write or you must come and dictate a letter  
for me to write to her. I know all that you would  
say in defence of not writing & I allow in full force  
every thing that can say or think, but get a letter from  
me or you shall go today.

I wanted to tell you but feared to begin the subject  
of how well your children are how prosper themselves &  
what a nice child Sara is and above all I hear  
such favorable accounts from Louisa from Wordsworth  
& Hazlett of Hartley.

I have got Wordsworth's letters out for you to look at but  
you shall not see them or talk of them without your  
leave — Only come here as soon as you receive this,  
and I will not urge you about writing, but will manage  
a few lines Charles and I between us but something

like a letter shall go today.

Come directly

yours affectionately  
M. Lamb