



Mr. E. W. North

Messrs Charles Scribner's Sons  
Publishers

153 Fifth Avenue

U.S.A.

New York



1901  
10:30 AM  
NEW YORK, N.Y.

without releasing an amount  
 to a sum of £1000. If the  
 following letter for April, which  
 I am putting before you, reaches  
 is desirable, you will find  
 the reason for a different kind of  
 omission - from a letter which  
 Canon Briggs had very approvingly  
 written. I think exact for it is  
 written. Very slight maybe -  
 but also very suspicious. And  
 really is a true Lamb  
 zeal. I say that think  
 that I wish in any

86, GREAT PORTLAND STREET,  
 W.

March 29, 1901

To R. D. North Esq.

Dear Sir, with regard first of  
 all to the necessity of a new  
 edition of Charles Lamb, I agree  
 with you that for the ordinary  
 reader Canon Briggs' edition is  
 admirable. But to those at  
 all interested in the complexities  
 of Lamb's character; to those  
 who hold his personality to  
 rare opinions that no opinion  
 of it is unimportant; Canon  
 Briggs leaves very

much to see. I have now  
been going from two to five hours  
a day to Charles Lamb for five  
or a half months, following upon  
an excellent thing for some  
years previous - working with  
Meyer's edition (the new one) as  
a basis - & I have found  
it a disappointment in every  
way - except in the charming  
introduction. The text of  
the Eliot is practically accurate;  
but I should like you to  
see my alterations

of the text of the Essay that Lamb  
did not collect himself. The poems  
too are very long - "ingenious  
horse" (for "ingenious") for example  
persists right into the entire  
of Lucretius. But when it comes  
to the letters - and I have  
had the opportunity of collecting  
some 100 already - the origi-  
nal references amount to something  
more than carelessness. One  
unrecalled omission of sentences  
superficially consistent with Suetonius  
school dogma are numerous,  
to my mind to omit

appears in the de luxe. 9  
 an ending than entire in an  
 appendix (to the poetry volume.)  
 now as regards your material -  
 when I write it out it does not occur  
 to me that there would be  
 any chance of your cooperation  
 in the way you name. I was  
 thinking merely of supplying  
 a copyist through your  
 kind assistance & getting  
 leave for him to work.  
 But your letter puts  
 a totally different complexion

86, GREAT PORTLAND STREET,  
 W.

way to belittle Canon Price -  
 I do not. But his theories  
 editing mine are wholly different;  
 & it is wrong to hold for Lamb  
 to be Ecclesiastical - so to  
 speak. I am vain enough to  
 think that a renegade Quaker  
 can come nearer to him than  
 a practicing Canon - that is  
 all. Mark, however, from  
 errors of transcription & omissions  
 I have always brought together  
 some score of poems, a

dozen or so letters (although this  
 part of my work is not yet begun)  
 or some twenty thousand words  
 whose names yet called  
 indispensably done. There alone  
 which constitute justification  
 for a new edition. Also I  
 am going to draw new before  
 done - some putting these  
 illustrations that are necessary -  
 such as of plates of Hoagland  
 in the Hoagland essay; the  
 article of London from Stuckert

Bible & 1/2. This particular  
 volume will be a rule at any  
 rate distinguish the editor from  
 any other; but it is more  
 to be copied - I pray not anticipated.  
 One little point about Canon  
 Smith's definition. One  
 when Woodville notes in the  
Memories were written largely  
 in his interest as symp  
 Campbell point out at the  
 beginning. It is not a kind  
 of them or of the interesting  
 new reasons of the day.

and those American letters  
 necessary.)  
 meanwhile I shall be glad  
 if you will give me an  
 idea of the cost of  
 allowing me to use in this  
 country, (returning the copy  
 to you) your collection of  
 letters of that is  
 provided I have informed  
 you that my edition has  
 the right to be; & I  
 thank you very much for  
 your letter and enclosure.  
 Believe me yours faithfully  
 G. S. Jones

86, GREAT PORTLAND STREET,  
 W.

on the last. I had been  
 told to say. The edition has  
 already - owing to copyright  
 difficulties - been more expensive  
 than the publisher has wanted  
 it to be; but I am sending  
 you suggestions to Melrose  
 to say. Would you mind  
 telling me the value you  
 place on your collection of  
 your copies of letters now  
 yet printed in any edition  
 (together with permissions)

6.  
use of mine). Also the  
number of new letters you have  
of the recipients? I am  
not particularly anxious to  
publish them first - provided  
I may include them - my  
work of the letters not being  
due until 1903 I should  
think. I do not want  
to interfere with your  
work in America project.  
at all - although I was  
hoping to have an appendix

to the life containing marginalia  
from his library. I have three  
books prepared - million years.  
and of the world with its.  
Pittif Muller has not arranged  
his America series - if  
Soulton were to have it -  
could you not add your  
America notes volume to  
it? (This is a sub  
thought - probably quite  
valuable) but you will  
understand my anxiety to  
be as complete as possible -



(COPY).

86 Great Portland St., W.,  
March 29, 1901.

Mr. E. D. North,

Dear Sir:

With regard first and all to the necessity of a new edition of Charles Lamb, I agree with you that for the ordinary reader Canon Ainger's edition is admirable. But to those at all interested in the complexities of Lamb's character, to those who hold his personality so rare and precious that no expression of it is unimportant, Canon Ainger leaves very much to such. I have now been giving from two to five hours a day to Charles Lamb for five and one-half months, following upon less concentrated study for some years previously, working with Ainger's edition (the new one) as a basis, and I have found it a disappointment in every way except in the charming introductions. The text of the "Elia" is practically accurate. I should like you to see my collations of the text of the essays that Lamb did not collect himself. The poems too, are very lax-- "Ingenious Hone" for "Ingenuous" for example, persists right into the edition "De Luxe"; but when it comes to the letters (and I have had the opportunity of collating some 100 already) the discrepancies amount to something more than carelessness. The unrevised omissions of sentiments superficially discordant with Sunday School dogma, are numerous, and to my mind to omit, without notifying an omission, amounts to a kind of fraud. If the Fortnightly Review of April, which I am positing to you reaches

2.

its destination, you will find the record of a sufficient kind of omissions from a letter which Canon Ainger had every opportunity of printing exactly as it was written, very slight maybe but also very significant and necessary to a true Lamb zealot. Pray, don't think that I wish in any way to belittle Canon Ainger- I do not, but his theory of editing and mine are totally different, and it is I hold, for Lamb to be ecclesiastized, so to speak. I am vain enough to think that a renegade Quaker can come nigher to him than a practising Canon, that is all. \ Apart however, from errors of transcription and omissions, I have already brought together some score of poems, a dozen or so of letters (although this part of my task is only part beginning) and some twenty thousand words of prose never yet collected and indisputably Lamb's. These alone, I think, constitute justification for a new edition; also I am doing to them as never before done- I am putting those illustrations that are necessary, such as plate of Hogarth in the Hogarth essay; the Witch of Endor from Stach <sup>7</sup> Bible, etc. This particular feature will for awhile at any rate distinguish the edition from any other, but it is sure to be copied-- I pray not anticipated.

One little point Canon Ainger and Definitiveness. The Jno. Woodvil notes in the Antheneum were written largely in his interest, as Dykes Campbell points out at the beginning; yet not a hint of this or of the interesting new readings of the play appear in the De Luxe. I am quoting them entire as an appendix to the poetry volume.

Now as regards your material. When I wrote, it did not occur to me that there would be any chance of your co-operation in the way you name. I am thinking merely of engaging a copyist through your kind

7 Stachpole

3.

assistance, and getting leave for him to work. But your letter puts a totally different complexion on the case, I hardly know what to say. The edition has already, owing to copyright difficulties, been more expensive than the publishers ever wanted it to be, but I am sending your suggestion to Methuen to-day. Would you mind telling me the value you place on your collations and your copies of letters never yet printed in any edition, together with permission to use the work, also the number of new letters you have and their recipients? I am not particularly anxious to publish these first (provided I may include them), my edition of the letters not being due until 1903 I think. I do not want to interfere with your "Lamb in America" project at all, although I was hoping to have an appendix to the life containing marginalia from his library. I have three books prepared:- Milton, Beaumont Fletcher and Wither. Possibly Methuen has not arranged his American Editions. If Scribner were to have it, could you not add your American notes volume to it? This is a sudden thought- probably quite worthless, but you will understand my anxiety to be as complete as possible and those American letters are so necessary.

Meanwhile, I shall be glad if you will give me an idea of the cost of allowing me to use in this country (returning the copy to you) your collations of letters only, that is, provided I have convinced you that my edition has the right to be, and I thank you very much for your letter and its enclosure.

Believe me,

Yours faithfully,

E.V.Lucas.