

Thursday, Dec 17. 1807.

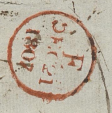
Little did I suspect my dear friend when writing to you last night, what intelligence I should receive respecting you this evening! - a strongly deficient must you have suffered me to be in the common duties of friendship, finding me silent on such an occasion. - I cannot forgive Henry for leaving me all this in ignorance.

God be praised that the trial with which he has been pleased to visit you, heavy as it is, is the lightest of all others for a wise man. Absolute want - the want of the necessaries of life - is indeed of all evils the greatest - but when decent comforts are left, how much better can all be borne than to have the health, or friend or child! - To you I trust this is but a transient & recoverable loss: - the hurricane has swept away blossom & fruit & leaf, - but the tree is standing & will put forth its buds again. - Surely better than your spirits were as I last expected them to be. - Surely no man ever employed wealth better. - & I have sometimes like a fault that one who has employed it so well will be entrusted with it again.

My debt to you shall certainly be discharged in the course of the ensuing year. I explained the state of my affairs in my yesterday's letter. I can now only to add that, having this additional motive for exertion, I will make such arrangements, when next in London, as will secure the performance of this duty. ~~Should the Anna remove to Bristol you will I hope consider it reasonable~~

MS. B. 1. 1807
Robert Southey
New Street, Bristol
Nov. 29. 1807
A. 1807

John May Esq
Rale
Dorchester
Wiltshire.



the matter well before you resolve upon removing to that country. I do not say this merely from personal feelings, & the fact that it would prove to be a great advantage to you & your family. But the stability of his government, in case of such an event, is to be doubted. It appears that the Brazilians are heartily enough & than our interests to prefer the French to us. They are prejudiced must needs be heightened by their dreadful beggary. & if they find themselves troubled with the expenses of a court, such is not very likely to be under the direction of wise ministers, no change which would take place would surprise me. There is another personal consideration which influenced me ~~very~~ much when it was estimated to me some two years ago, that I perhaps might see South America: there is, the miserable state of medical science in that country: to a single man has had not be of weight sufficient to set against any material prospect of advantage, but to those who like you & I are fathers & husbands, it had seem to outweigh every other thing. Good as the climate of Brazil is an English constitution does not adapt itself to so great a change without some reserve. And had as the native physicians are, it will require many years of experience to make English practitioners better.

Perhaps I may see you one day. I have been repeatedly invited to Mr Charles Mellett's (the uncle of a lady who is our summer neighbor) & that she be an in habit of the strict intimacy & that I will say that I cannot very well refuse making considerable head out of my own & domestic for the sake of your son. And you be at Heli that will be rather enough to lead me then.

Henry's letter is very unsatisfactory. He seems to think that I have

every thing which has taken place, & I forget that he has only written to me three before since he left England.

Remember me very kindly to Mr May - & believe me my dear friend
yours very truly & affectionately

Robert Southey.

Friday

My letter of Wednesday was directed to Richmond, & inclosed a draft for 50 £ on Longman. I suppose it will follow you safely.