

To Miss Mary Betham
Friend of Southey's Coleridge
Transtrucke

More than once have I been on the point of writing to you, & as often prevented by some disagreeing or distressing circumstance. Often this week I have departed in your church-yard the little girl who was newly born when you see me. I had not ceased to thank God for the preservation of my only boy, who had been freed from the croup, & when this visitation befell us; - & I do not cease to thank him now. - Did I see happily an infant at the breast, - a better comforter than I could be, - that it will be long before he recovers from this stroke. Such does seem unexpected as it is severe.

I go on Thursday next to visit Durham, to visit my brother who is just married, my sister Ardena from home will exceed a fortnight. The sooner you arrive after my return the better, - for the delight of this country is in the long evenings of Midsummer, & I shall be sorry if you miss them. The straight road from London is to Penrith, - one stage short of Carlisle, & 18 miles from Keswick. From thence there is a stage which runs thro' this place Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays. But if you reach Penrith early enough to come by chaise, it is less wearisome to proceed to a stage where horses

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where you will feel yourself at home. then to pass a night at an inn. - for the Stage leaves Newcastle in the morning. If you come by way of Leeds or Manchester, there is no Stage nearer than Leeds, which is thirty miles from hence. It is a long journey. - but if you start from London, the least fatiguing plan is to take the mail, - remember not that which goes by Manchester to Carlisle. - for that takes in the various stoppages for some thirty additional miles, & for a spell of two hours in the dead of the night at a Manchester inn, waiting to be turned over to another coach; - but the Carlisle mail which goes by Newcastle & Doncaster. - & sets out from the Bull & Mouth. I enter into these particulars because some of my friends have been deceived by book-keepers & sent the more circuitous route.

Allen was at school with me. I remember him well, but never had any intimacy with him. John Dolgrou was one of my earliest playmates. & which I use at Westminster his mother's house was my home every Saturday & Sunday. He chafed & clasped of the words his person as far as under. - the more so perhaps because ever since he ceased to approach we must hear from more walks each other. I used to shoot with him, fish with him & lay inns for rabbits. These things I could not do now. Were I however to meet Dolgrou (& I could turn fifty miles from my

way for the sake of meeting him) - my first feeling would be like that of a brother. - he should blot their tears at the sight of her dear mother & of his sister. - & then that sympathy was over I should begin to feel a weight at my heart. - from perceiving how little other sympathy has left us. - I know what that feeling is by experience & there are few feelings more painful.

The Mr Townsend of whom you speak was to me a new name. for Cumberland's Review has not travelled here. - & I suppose will not long travel any more. - some of his efforts to having applied for employment to the Quarterly. - I extract you read Woodworth's pamphlet upon the affairs of Spain. - just published by Longman. Only Burke equals it in eloquence, & he only by facts & flashes. - but there shines thro' the light of truth & of reason & of God. - a light of such nobility more than the dim & discoloured reflection ever shone upon Burke.

God bless you. We shall be glad to hear you are coming, still more so when you arrive. - Swift desires to be remembered to you -
yours very truly

Robert Southey