

SOUTHNEY, ROST. A.W.S. 4.7.35.

Reswick, 7 Apr. 1839

My dear General,

I have this morning received a letter from Sir Robert Peel, saying, that he has given me a pension of 300^l a year, in addition to that of 200^l. which I already possessed.

The first letter that I have written upon this occasion, has of course been to express my acknowledgements to him for this substantial benefit, which sets me at ease concerning the subsistence of my family, whenever my strength may fail. ~~The record is to acquaint you with it. I do repeat~~ my hearty thanks for your considerate & reasonable & most friendly act of kindness in October last, & to say that the first use I make of this accession to my means, will be to pay to your account at Messrs Hoare's the 100^l which was then accepted with so sincere & frank a feeling of friendship as it was bestowed. I do

then, not to discharge myself from a sense of obligation, which will always remain the same, & which men, (if they are good for any thing) are the better for feeling; but because under my present circumstances, it is what ought to be done.

Last week I brought my poor wife home from the Retreat. The medical attendants there held out no prospect of her recovery; they thought that her mind was totally destroyed. Since our return however there has been full proof that this is not the case; & God be thanked, I may venture to say, that we have now some reasonable though precarious hope.

You will excuse the haste & brevity of this communication, for I have sundry letters to write on the same occasion. When I am a little at leisure & know when you are, I will write ^{you} ~~you~~ at length. Then I shall feel pressed to hurry, knowing that it will follow & find you wherever you may be.

With our kind regards to Mrs. Peckey & Mr. Cleary, believe me always

My Dear General
with the sincerest regard
Yrs affectionately

Robert Southey.

Pendle - 30 Sept 1782