

3 Jan 9 1826

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Mrs Aders
Euston Square



My dear Mrs Aders I mean to punish you for supposing it possible, that any thing, that Nature and God's good grace have left in your or Mr Aders' power to do, could alienate my or my Friends' regard and Affection. And by way of punishment I purpose to inflict on you an attentive perusal of three close-written pages of metaphysical disquisition on the minor morals arising out of the duty of respecting the free agency & individuality of your friends or intimate. But unluckily I began on a defective sheet, and was forced to finish it on a different scrap - so I must make a fair copy. But when shall I attend the time? - and how can I my impatient eagerness to avenge myself on you endure the delay? I will even enclose the scraps, as they are - demanding a promise of you, that you will bring them when you the first time, you come - when if you wish it, I will make a fair copy for you. A. D. By the words, "the first time, you come". I precisely mean, I desire, hope, and expect Thursday next, i.e. the day after tomorrow, 5 Jan 9 1826 (also) - Mrs Gellman trusts, that you and Miss James will come early, a full hour at least before dinner (4 o'clock) and that nothing foreseeable can obstruct you, but wicked bad weather. I wish myself very much to converse with you on a subject that I feel closer to my heart than I had imagined that any new prospect, or image of a happy world, could have made way to. For in this bleak, wintry, sterile, sterile of whom what is not changed, is chilled, and in this winter - some of my own Brandy, I resemble a Bottle of Brandy in Spitzbergen - a ^{large} ^{quantity} of ^{brandy} ^{is} ^{deposited} ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{center} ^{of} ^{the} ^{cake} ^{of} ^{ice} - But on this very account, that I do feel unusual interest in the question, I find greater difficulty in making my own thoughts sufficiently distinct and clear, to communicate them - connectedly and consecutively, in writing. They are ^{too} ^{feeble} ^{enough} to climb up by chirp on the edge of their Bertha nest; but not fledged enough.

to fly away, tho' it were but to perch on the next branch. You
observe most truly, that the distance is the menacing obstacle, &
whether insuperable? this is the point, I would fain left with
you, precisely to my long able to decide whether I should direct
my reflections on this point and submit them to Mr Aders.
Till the probability at least of the scheme is ascertained, or
any condition it would (according to my judgement) be premature
to think of ought else. Should it appear feasible — then
many points might purposely need to be understood, ~~in order~~
that you & Mr Aders may form a judgement whether it
would be convenient to you, or feasible or compatible
with your other views & objects. But I shall lose the
Post if I do not scurry off this Letter on Friday, May,
Do not let a trifle disappoint us if you are
Thursday. Mr I am with true regard
Yours for Aders;
Affect. Friend
S. J. Clarke

Mr Aders
London



[1800]

3 Jan^y 1826

My dear Mrs Aders

I mean to punish you for supposing it possible that anything, that Nature and God's good grace have left in your or Mr Ader's power to do, could alienate my or my Friend's Regard and Affection. And by way of punishment I purpose to inflict on you an attentive perusal of three close written pages of metaphysical disquisition on the minor morals arising out of the Duty of respecting the free agency & individuality of your friend or intimate. But unluckily I began on a defective sheet and was forced to finish it on a different scrap, so I must make a fair copy. But when shall I have find the time?— and how can my impatient eagerness to avenge myself on you endure the delay? I will even enclose the scraps, as they are — demanding a promise of you that you will bring them with you the first time you come — when if you shall wish it, I will make a fair copy for you. N.B. By the words, "the first time you come," I precisely mean, I desire, hope; and expect Thursday next, i. e. the day after to-morrow, 5 Jany. 182 six (alas!)— Mrs Gillman trusts that you and Miss James will come early (a full hour at least before dinner (4 o'clock) and that nothing foreseeable can absolve you, but wicked bad weather.— I wish myself very much to converse with you on a subject that I feel in closer neighborhood to my heart than what I had imagined that any new prospect, or image of a possible event, could have made way to. For in this bleak^{*} World of mutabilities & where what is not changed is chilled, and in this winter-time of my own Being, I resemble a Bottle of Brandy in Spitzbergen — a ~~gill~~ dram of alcoholic Fire[†] in the center of a Cake of Ice.— But on this very account, that I do feel unusual interest in the question, I find greater difficulty in making my own thoughts sufficiently distinct and clear to communicate them connectedly and consecutively, in writing. They are mature enough to climb up & chirp on the edge of their Birth-nest; but not fledged enough to fly away, tho' it were but to perch on the next branch.— You observe most truly, that the distance is the menacing obstruction— whether insuperable? this is the point, I would fain sift with you, previously to my being able to decide whether I should digest my reflections on this point and submit them to Mr Aders. Till the possibility at least of the scheme is ascertained, on any condition — it would (according to my judgement) be premature to think of aught else. Should it appear possible — then many points might purposely need to be understood, in order that you & Mr Aders may form a judgement whether it would be convenient to you, or feasible in compatibility with your other views & objects.— But I shall lose the Post if I do not hurry off this letter. Pray, pray, do not let a trifle disappoint us of you on Thursday — for I am with true regard

Your & Mr Aders

Mrs Aders

Affect. Friend

Euston Square

S. T. Coleridge

(Postmarked) Highgate Ev Ja 3 1826

* "bleak" written over "weary", stricken out.
† "alcoholic Fire" over "ardent spirit", stricken out.

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Briggs thinks that this was a proposed note to Economy, with the Aders.