

Mr S. T. Coleridge would not have troubled ~~himself~~
Mr Montagu about such a trifling as the Devil's Thoughts
of the reputation, but this doggerel is capable of entering
had been the point in question. But by referring to Mr
Coleridge's Poems, even in the form of the ^{Long ago published} Silyllene
Leaves, Mr Montagu will find (in the Apologetic
Preface to the Three, Famine and Slaves, &c.) that
Mr Coleridge had informed the reader that the
Devil's Thoughts were written by himself and ~~Mr~~ Southey -
that Southey wrote the three first stanzas and the
Stanza on the Cold Bath Prison, ^(wrote all the rest twice over) and Mr Coleridge
the Remainder. In the complete collection of Mr Coleridge's
poetical works by Mr Pickering, Mr Montagu might
have found a correct copy of the Devil's Thoughts -
for of the Poem, as given in the Illustrations, it is many
parts not only such as Mr C. could not have written, but
he has been able enough to have supposed the publisher, when written,
but almost a label in the name of Porson, the torrest of
writers. Now surely, Mr Montagu could not even suspect that such a
man as Southey, or even that Mr Coleridge, could be guilty of
claiming the work of another, & that too such a trifling as

the force of so monstrous a meaning! - Sir Walter
Scott, and half a score other men of Rank and Literary
Name knew that Mr Coleridge was the promulgator & author from
th' first appearance in the Morning Post; Mr Daniel Street
received the MS from Mr Coleridge & describes the
copies in the Morning Paper struck off two or three hundred
copies, & dispersed among his friends by the bye, by a
strange coincidence, the Hero, Jerusalem and Hunchback, and
the world copy of verses, entitled - The two Round Spices - beginning
with the lines -

The Devil believes that the Lord will come
stealing a March without beat of Drum

About the same hour that he came last,

On an old Christmas Day, in a noisy Blast -

have been published in an Irish Miscellany and attributed
to Mr Porson.

S. T. Coleridge, Compt.,
Grove, Highgate

April Monday 1831

Montagu, Esq
The Editor of "The Scots Magazine"
by Mr Crumbranks
to the care of

60^g
15^g

45^g Marks
15^g Paid
60^g Together

18.12.16.
3 11.15.15
5 11.8.5
2.43



£

HS4
2ALS

#5904

LUE-S-X

4

Autograph

A. L. S.

OF

Coleridge (A. Y.) (2 letters)

2/26 46 1831.

Born

Died

MAGGS BROTHERS,

RARE BOOKS, PRINTS AND AUTOGRAPHS,
50, BERKELEY SQUARE, W1.

34 & 35, Conduit Street, London, W.

ENGLAND.

close

646

SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE, A. L. S., [Monday,] April
1830, to H. W. Montagu.

Mr S. T. Coleridge would not have troubled [2 words blotted over] Mr Montague about such a trifle as the Devil's Thoughts if the reputation, that this doggerel is capable of conferring had been the point in question. [S. T. C. with some irony corrects Montagu's impressions as to the authorship of a poem already printed in "the Compleat collection of Mr Coleridge's poetical writings by Mr Pickering." An Irish miscellany, he concludes, has published Coleridge verses as by "Mr Porson."]

S. T. Coleridge['s] Comp^{lt.},
Grove, Highgate

April

Monday 1830 [final digit altered by erasure to 1]

ALS, 2 pages. Double sheet, 22.5 x 18.2 cm.

Wove paper. Watermark: J WHATMAN | TURKEY MILL |
1828.

Seal: red wafer.

Postmark: none.

Address: (center panel, verso, of second sheet)—Montagu, Esq^r,
| The Editor of "The Devil's Thoughts" [this word lined out
and *Walk* written above it] illustrated | by Mr Cruickshanks. |
to the care of.

Provenance: As for the [17 March 1798] letter to Joseph Cottle?
Listed in Edgar H. Wells cat. 47, 1940.

Unpublished.

Notes: 1. The occasion for Coleridge's remonstrance was the March 1830 publication of THE DEVIL'S WALK; | A POEM. | BY | PROFESSOR PORSON (edited by H. W. Montagu and published in London by Marsh and Miller and in Edinburgh by Constable and Co.), with elaborate footnotes on variants. "The Devil's Thoughts" was first published by Coleridge and Southey in the *Morning Post* for 6 September 1799; in 1827 Southey expanded it into the 57 stanzas of "The Devil's Walk."

2. Richard Porson (1759–1808), editor of Aeschylus, Aristophanes, Euripides, etc., had something of a reputation for *sub rosa* lampoonery, as witness a wrong ascription to him of *Eloisa en Dishabille*, 1822.

3. Daniel Stuart, editor of the *Courier*, was a steadfast friend in Coleridge's later years.

4. I cannot locate a copy of the "Irish Miscellany" containing "Fire, Famine, and Slaughter" (*Morning Post*, 8 January 1798) and "The Two Round Spaces on the Tombstone" (*Morning Post*, 24 November 1800).

5. To be published in Griggs, VI (no. 1686).

71

"THE DEVIL'S WALK."

COLERIDGE (Samuel Taylor, 1772-1834). Poet and Philosopher.

AUTOGRAPH LETTER (3rd person) TO H. W. MONTAGU, *who edited*
and published the edition of "The Devil's Walk" which came out
under Porson's name.
2 pages, 4to. April, 1831.

£52 10s.

One of the finest and most important letters written by Coleridge, it concerns the authorship of "The Devil's Walk," which had been published under the title of "The Devil's Walk; a poem by Professor Porson. Edited by H. W. Montagu: illustrated by Cruikshank."

"Mr. S. T. Coleridge would not have troubled Mr. Montagu about such a trifle as the Devil's Thoughts if the reputation, that this doggerel is capable of conferring had been the point in question. But by referring to Mr. Coleridge's Poems, in the form of the long published Sibylline Leaves, Mr. Montagu will find (in the Apologetic Preface to the Fire Famine and Slaughter) that Mr. Coleridge had informed the reader that the Devil's Thoughts were written by himself and Mr. Southey, that Southey wrote the first three stanzas and the stanza on the Cold Bath Person (worth all the rest twice over) and Mr. Coleridge the remainder. In the compleat collection of Mr. Coleridge's poetical writings by Mr. Pickering, Mr. Montagu might have found a correct copy of the Devil's Thoughts, for the Poem, as given in the Illustrations, is in many parts not only such as Mr. C. could not have written, had he been edle enough to have suffered the publication, when written, but almost a label on the name of Porson, the tersest of writers. Now, surely, Mr. Montagu could not even suspect that such a man as Southey, or even that Mr. Coleridge, could be guilty of claiming the work of another, & that too such a trifle at the price of so monstrous a meanness." Etc.