

Stoney 4<sup>th</sup> March 90

Dear little

When Ward went to Bristol last week I desired him to inform you I had a good house to let here at Stoney and to request you, if you could, to recommend me a desirable Tenant — Ward tells me you wish to know the rent of the house — what sort of a house it is &c. &c. — the rent is £24-0-0 per annum — I discharging church and poor rates and land tax — the house is situated in the best part of the town of Netter Stoney facing the south — it consists of an entrance, two parlours, and a ~~two~~ little room in front — the parlours are 16 by 10 and the little room about 10 square — ~~all~~ the three rooms are about 9 feet high — behind is another room 15 feet square leading to a good kitchen — beneath cellars &c. &c. — there are ~~also~~ nine bed chambers on the first floor one ~~is~~ large and high and may be made a good drawing room — there are good garrets over these fit for servants or any one else — there are two stair cases a back and front one, the front one is <sup>open and</sup> very neat and in sight as you enter the house — immediately at the back of the house is a paved court and adjoining that on one side a good walled garden, and from the other you are led up to a very pleasant green walled round nearly an acre of very good land — from this green is a large gate which opens at once into ~~the fields~~ <sup>pasture and meadow</sup> two fields of fifteen acres with which the Tenant may be accomo-

dated at Ladyday next - these of course are not in-  
cluded in the house, every thing else which I have men-  
tioned is, and besides a large court yard at the  
end of the house with a gate opening into the  
street - in the court yard is a stable with three stalls  
and other considerable buildings which may be con-  
verted into more stabling coachhouses &c. &c.

I need say nothing of the peculiar healthfulness  
and beauty of our situation, nor of the society which  
is to be found at Stoney - the former is a ~~fact~~ proverb  
well in the neighbourhood and the latter my dear  
friend you very well know - it must be felt but  
I cannot describe it - I have only to add with  
respect to the house that it is in perfectly good repair  
it is all neat but nothing elegant - all the rooms  
above and below are papered - the Tenant who is now  
in it will <sup>use to live in</sup> quit it I believe soon after Ladyday  
his time does not expire till Christmas next -  
but he will have no objection to give it up as soon  
after he quits is removed from it as I can get  
a Tenant - the house now pays for 19 windows  
some are of course blocked up &c. &c.

Anyone wishing further particulars must  
come to Stoney - If you think I have under rated  
the house you may name more according to your  
judgment - for less I would not let it - do you  
think one of the Widge woods or Dr. Coats would like  
this house - let me hear from you soon -

Colridge has been so well lately he is now better  
Woodworth has been so well lately he is now  
better - I spent a delightful evening with  
them last night - I wish you had been  
there - God bless you and mine  
Yours very sincerely  
G. Lind  
A. D. 1812

My Dear Cottle

I have been confined to my bed for some days  
tho' a fever occasioned by the stump of a tooth which baffled  
chirurgical efforts to eject it; & <sup>which</sup> by affecting my eye affected  
my stomach, & thro' that my whole frame. I am better - but still  
weak in consequence of such long sleeplessness & wearying pains -  
weak, very weak. - I thank you, my dear friend! for your late kindness  
and in a few weeks will either repay you in money or by verses,  
as you like. - With regard to Lloyd's verses, it is curious that  
I should be applied to to be persuaded to resign, and in fact  
that I might consent to give up a number of poems  
which were published at the earnest request of the author  
approved that the circumstance was "of no trivial import to his  
happiness." - ~~But~~ Times change, & people change, but let us keep our  
souls in quietness! - I have no objection to any disposal of  
C. Lloyd's <sup>poems</sup> except that of their being republished with mine.  
The motto, which I had prefixed "Duplex &c" from Groscolonia <sup>(fictitious)</sup>  
has placed <sup>me</sup> in a ridiculous situation - but it was a foolish  
& presumptuous start of affectation, and I am not unwilling  
to incur punishment due to my folly. - By past experiences we  
build up our moral being. - - How comes that I have never  
heard from dear Mr Estlin, my fatherly & brotherly friend? This idea  
haunted me during my sleepless nights, till my sides were sore in  
turning from one to the other, as if I were hoping to turn away

from the idea. — The Giant Wordsworth — God love him! — even when I speak in the ~~terms~~<sup>terms</sup> of admiration due to his intellect, I fear lest the terms should keep out of sight the amiable of his manners — he has written near 1200 lines of a blank verse, superior, I venture not to over, to any thing in our language <sup>verse</sup> which any way resembles it. Poole (whom I feel so consolidated with myself that I seem to have no occasion to speak of him out of myself) thinks of it as likely to benefit mankind much more than any thing, Wordsworth has yet written. — — with regard to my poems I shall profit the Maid of Orleans, 1000 lines — & three blank verses, <sup>poems,</sup> making all three, about 200 — I am I shall utterly leave out perhaps a larger quantity of lines: & I should think, it would answer

Mr Poole  
 R. B. Poole  
 Bristol

Monday  
 1790  
 Edinburgh

to you in a pecuniary way — to print the third Edition humbly & cheaply. My alterations in the Religious Musings will be considerable, & will lengthen the poem. — Oh! Poole desires you not to mention his house to any one unless you hear from him again; as since I have been writing a thought has struck <sup>me</sup> of letting it to ~~an~~<sup>an</sup> inhabitant of the village. That we should prefer, as we should be certain that his manners would be severe, inasmuch as he would be a Stowic. Stowey, Wednesday morning. (and bless you Mr. P. & C.)



S. T. COLERIDGE - A. L. S. TO JOHN COTTLE - MAR. 8, 1798

SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE, A. L. S., [7 or 8 March 1798,] to Joseph Cottle.

My dear Cottle

I have been confined to my bed for some days thro' a fever occasioned by the stump of a tooth which baffled chirurgical efforts to eject it; & which by affecting my eye affected my stomach, & thro' that my whole frame. I am better—but still weak in consequence of such long sleeplessness & wearying pains—weak, very weak.—I thank you, my dear Friend! for your late kindness—and in a few weeks will either repay you in money or by verses, as you like.—With regard to Lloyd's verses, it is curious that *I* should be applied to—to be "PERSUADED TO RESIGN, and in ho[pe] that I might "CONSENT TO GIVE UP" a number of poem[s] which were published at the earnest request of the author[, who] assured me that the circumstance was "of no trivial import to his happiness."—But [deleted] Times change, & people change; but let us keep our souls in quietness!—I have no objection to any disposal of C. Lloyd's poems except that of their being republished with mine. The motto, which I had prefixed "Duplex &c" from Groscollius has placed me in a ridiculous situation—but it was a foolish & presumptuous start of affectionateness, and I am not unwilling to incur punishments due to my folly.—By past experiences we build up our moral being.— — — How comes it that I have never heard from dear M<sup>r</sup>. Estlin, my fatherly & brotherly friend? This idea haunted me during my sleepless nights, till my sides were sore in turning from one to the other, as if I were hoping to turn away [p. 2] from the idea.—The Giant Wordsworth—God love him!

—even when I speak in the terms of admiration due to his intellect, I fear lest tho[se] terms should keep out of sight the amiableness of his manners— —he has written near 1200 lines of a blank verse, superior, I hesitate not to aver, to any thing in our language which any way resembles it. Poole (whom I feel so consolidated with myself that I seem to have no occasion to speak of him out of myself) thinks of it as likely to benefit mankind much more than any thing, Wordsworth has yet written. — —With regard to my poems I shall prefix the Maid of Orleans, 1000 lines—& three blank verse poems, making all three, about 200— / and I shall utterly leave out perhaps a larger quantity of lines: & I should think, it would answer to you in a pecuniary way to print the third Edition *humbly* & cheaply. My alterations in the Religious Musings will be considerable, & will lengthen the poem.—Oh! Poole desires you *not* to mention his house to any one unless you hear from him again; as since I have been writing a thought has struck us of letting it to an inhabitant of the village—which we should prefer, as we should be certain that his manners would be severe, inasmuch as he would be a Stow-ic.

Stowey, Wednesday Morning.      God bless you & S. T. C.

ALS, 2 pages (the first page commencing immediately below signature of Thomas Poole in *his* ALS, 8 March 1798, which see below). Single sheet, 32 x 20 cm. Slight damage to text indicated by brackets.

Laid paper. Watermark: GOLDING & C<sup>o</sup> | 1796.

Seal removed.

Postmark: [BRIDGE] | WATE[R] [mileage stamp]. Postal fee: 5.

Address: (center panel of p. 2) Mr Cottle | Bookseller | Bristol.

Provenance: Unknown. In a red buckram slipcase, spine inlaid with brown morocco and gold lettered S. T. COLERIDGE – A. L. S. TO JOHN COTTLE – MAR. 8, 1798.

Published, with omissions, in *Letters of Samuel Taylor Coleridge*, ed. Ernest Hartley Coleridge (2 vols.; London: William Heinemann, 1895), I, 238; *Collected Letters of Samuel Taylor Coleridge*, ed. Earl Leslie Griggs, I (Oxford, 1956), 390–391 (no. 235).

Notes: 1. Professor Griggs dates this letter 7 March (Wednesday) although it follows Poole's.

2. Joseph Cottle, who had been supplying Coleridge with money, published



*Poems on Various Subjects* in 1796 and *Poems* (by Coleridge, Charles Lamb, and Charles Lloyd) in 1797. The estrangement from Lloyd, dating from April 1797 and owing partly to Lloyd's epilepsy and partly to Coleridge's "Sonnets Attempted in the Manner of Contemporary Writers" (*Monthly Magazine*, November 1797)—not to mention Coleridge's "hoax" motto for *Poems*—explains that Coleridge was "persuaded to resign" so that *Blank Verse, by Charles Lamb and Charles Lloyd* could be published by T. Bensley, London, 1798.

3. John Prior Estlin was a Unitarian minister and schoolmaster in Bristol.

4. Wordsworth and Coleridge first met in the autumn of 1795. The "1200 lines of a blank verse" were part of the abortive *Recluse*.

5. Thomas Poole, the rich tanner of Nether Stowey, was a close associate of Coleridge (and his "circle") from 1794–1808.

6. Longman, not Cottle, published the third edition of *Poems* in 1803.

7. Here published by permission of Earl Leslie Griggs and The Clarendon Press, Oxford.

Storey 8th March '98

My dear Cottle:-

I have been confined to my bed for some days thro' a fever occasioned by the stump of a tooth which baffles chirurgical efforts to eject it; & which, by affecting my eye, affected my stomach, and thro' that my whole frame. I am better---but still weak, in consequence of long sleeplessness and wearying pains---weak, very weak. I thank you, my dear Friend, for your great kindness, and in a few weeks, will either repay you in money or by verses, as you like---With regard to Lloyd's verses it is curious that I should be applied to, to be "persuaded to resign," and in (hopes?) that I might "consent to give up" a number of poems, which were published at the earnest request of the author. (He ?) assured me that the circumstance was "of no trivial import to his happiness." Times change, and people change, but let us keep our souls in quietness! I have no objection to any disposal of C. Lloyd's poems, except that of their being republished with mine. The motto which I had prefixed, "Duplex &c" from Groscollius (fictitious) has placed me in a ridiculous situation--but it was a foolish and presumptuous start of affectionateness, and I am not unwilling to incur punishments due to my folly. By past experiences, we build up our moral being---How comes it that I never heard from dear Mr. Esthn (?) my fatherly and brotherly friend? This idea haunted me during my sleepless nights, till my sides were wore in turning from one to the other, as if I were hoping to turn away from the idea. The Giant Wordsworth---God love him! even when I speak in the terms of admiration due to his intellect, I fear lest these terms should keep out of sight the amiable-

ness of his manners---he has written near 1200 lines of a blank verse, superior, I hesitate not to aver, to anything in our language which any way resembles it. Poole (whom I feel so consolidated with myself that I seem to have no occasion to speak of him out of myself) thinks of it as likely to benefit mankind much more than any thing Wordsworth has yet written---With regard to my poems I shall <sup>prefer?</sup> profit the Maid of Orleans, 1000 lines, and three blank verse poems, making all three about 200, and I shall utterly leave out perhaps a larger quantity of lines: and I should think, it would answer to you in a pecuniary way, to print the third edition humbly and cheaply. My alterations in the Religious Musings will be considerable and will lengthen the poem---Oh! Poole desires you not to mention his house to any one unless you hear from him again; as, since I have been writing a thought has struck us of letting it to an inhabitant of the village, which we would prefer, as we should be certain that his manner would be severe, in as much as he would be a Stowic.

Stowey, Wednesday morning. God bless you. Yours,

S. T. C.

(Samuel Taylor Coleridge).

1798

Stowey, 8th March, 1798.

Dear Cottle:-

When Ward went to Bristol last week I desired him to inform you that I had a good house to let here at Stowey, and to request you, if you could, to recommend me a desirable tenant. Ward tells me you wish to know the rent of the house, what sort of a house it is, etc., etc., . . . The rent is £ 24-0-0 per annum. I discharging church and poor rates and land tax. The house is situated in the best part of the town of Northern Stowey, facing the South. It consists of an entrance, two parlors, and a little room in front. The parlors are 16 by 18 and the little room about 20 ft. square. These rooms are about 9 ft. high. Behind is another room about 15 ft. sq., leading to a good kitchen, hen house, cellars, etc., etc., There are nine bed-chambers on the first floor, one large and high, and may be made a good drawing room. There are good garrets over there, fit for servants or any one else. There are two stair cases, a back and a front one. The front one is open, very neat, and in sight as you enter the house. Immediately, at the back of the house is a paved court, and adjoining that on one side, a good walled garden, and from the other you are led up to a very pleasant green walled round nearly an acre of very good land. From this green is a large gate which opens at once into two pasture and meadow fields of thirteen acres with which the tenant may be accommodated at Lady day next.-- these, of course, are not included in the house, everything else which I have mentioned is, and besides a large court yard at the end of the house, with a gate opening into the street. In the court-yard is a stable, or, three stables and other considerable buildings, which may be converted into more stabling coach houses, etc., etc.,.

I need say nothing of the peculiar healthfulness and beauty of our situation, nor of the *Society* which is to be found at Stowey. The former is a proverb, even in the neighborhood, and the latter, my dear friend, you very well know. It must be felt, but I cannot describe it. I have only to add with respect to the house, that it is in perfectly good repair. It is all neat, but nothing elegant. All the rooms above and below, are papered. The tenant who is now in it will ~~cease to live~~ in it, I believe, soon after Ladyday, *his* time does not expire till Christmas next, but he ~~will~~ *will* have no objection to give it up as soon after he is removed from it as I can get a tenant. The house now *pays* for 19 windows; some are, of course, blocked up, etc., etc., .

Any one wishing further particulars must come to Stowey. If you think I have undermarked the house, you may name more according to your judgment. For less, I would not let it. Do you think one of the ~~Wedgwood's~~ *Wedgwood's*, or Mr.  would like this house? Let me hear from you soon.

Coleridge has been *unwell* lately. He is now better. Wordsworth has been unwell lately; he is now better. I spent a delightful evening with *them* last ~~even-~~ *night* ~~ing~~ . I wish you had been there. God bless you, and believe me,

Your very sincere friend,

~~Wm. O.~~ Poole,

*Thomas*

THOMAS POOLE, A. L. S., 8 March 1798, to Joseph Cottle.

Stowey ye 8<sup>th</sup> March 98

Dear Cottle —

When Ward went to Bristol last week I desired him to inform you I had a good house to let here at Stowey and to request you, if you could, to recommend me a desirable tenant—Ward tells me you wish to know the rent of the house—what sort of a house it is etc.—the rent is 26-0-0 per annum—I discharging church and poor rates and land tax—the house is situated in the best part of the town of Nether Stowey facing the south—it consists of an entrance, two parlours and a bre [deleted] little room in front the parlours are <sup>ft</sup> 16 by <sup>ft</sup> 18 and the little room about <sup>ft</sup> 10 square—all the [both words deleted] these rooms are about 9 feet high—behind is another room 15 feet square leading to a good kitchen henhouse cellars &c &c. &c.—there are [one word deleted] nine bed chambers on the first floor one [one word deleted] large and high and may be made a good drawing room—there are good garrets over these fit for servants or any one else—there are two stair cases—a back and front one, the front one is open and [deleted] very neat and in sight as you enter the house—immediately at the back of the house is a paved court and adjoining that on one side a good walled garden, and from the other you are led up to a very pleasant green *walled round* nearly an acre of very good land—from this green is a large gate which opens at once into the fields [both words deleted] two pasture and meadow fields of thirteen acres with which the tenant may be accomo- [p. 2] dated at Lady day next—these of course are not included in the house, everything else which I have mentioned is, and besides a large court yard at the end of the house with a gate opening into the street—in the court yard is a stable with three stables and other considerable buildings which may be converted into more stabling coachhorses &c &c.—I need say nothing of the peculiar healthfulness and beauty of our situation, nor of the Society which is to be found at Stowey—the former is a proverb even in the neighborhood—and the latter my dear friend you very well know—it must be *felt* but

I cannot describe it—I have only to add with respect to the house that it is in perfectly good repair—it is all neat but nothing elegant—all the rooms above and below are papered—the tenant who is now in it will [one word deleted] cease to live in it I believe soon after Lady day—his time does not expire till Christmas next—but he will have no objection to give it up as soon after he [one word deleted] is removed from it as I can get a tenant—the house now pays for 19 windows. Some are of course blocked up &c. &c.—

Any one wishing further particulars must come to Stowey—if you think I have under rated the house you may name more according to your judgment—for less I would not let it—do you think one of the Wedgwoods or [illegible name] would like this house—let me hear from you soon— [p. 3] Coleridge has been unwell lately he is now better—Wordsworth has been unwell lately he is now better. I spent a delightful evening with them last night—I wish you had been there—God bless you and believe me

Your very sincere Friend  
Thos Poole

ALS, 2¼ pages. Single sheets, 32 x 20 cm.

Laid paper. Watermarks: human figure in crowned oval above  
1796; GOLDING & C<sup>o</sup> | 1796.

Provenance: See item 12, Coleridge's accompanying letter.  
Unpublished.

Notes: 1. Thomas Ward was Poole's apprentice.  
2. See also the notes for item 12.