

West. Kelly
W.S. Fane
W.S. Fane

118

11. Chester Street - Belgrave

22^d December 1852

6 P.M.

My dear Coleridge

Returning to London after
a short absence (i.e. since the
day before yesterday) I received
this evening, (too late for a reply
by post) your letter without
date. In reply to it I can but
express my very earnest
hope that it may be granted
me to reach Brighton and to
become more associated with
you on the 31st. All particulars
as to trains and times of

of arrival & I will make known however at the moment that I
to you a day or two before that was preparing to write to Mrs
which is fixed for the journey. Reate and say so, came a missive
I did hope are now to have seen from Sir John Pakington, joining
Hartley and Mrs Reate again. an early hour on Friday for
Thornton the Rector of Chilton me to see him. This cut up my
near Basinstoke tempted me whole plan: for could I even have
to go down to his parochial reached Hartley this afternoon
Meeting yesterday (and a most I must have proceeded on my
gratifying assemblage it was) way early tomorrow: and a
and I had concluded that visit of a few hours would not
nothing would be easier than have satisfied me: I do frankly
to take the Reading Train from admit I do shrink from the
Basinstoke, and so to reach first approach to the well known
dear Hartley once again. place and the well known
however begot over; and on my return from
Cudderdon

Caddesdon I will if it please
God, accomplish my purpose of
visiting them; and will write to
Mr. Keate ere many days are
over. On my arrival here today
I found 17 letters awaiting me;
and had, before that, more
than 40 unanswered, although
I must have written a hundred
or more since my landing. How
to keep pace with my corres-
pondents (many of them per-
sonally unknown to me) I know
not. It is the same as to visit.
Every leisure moment I spend
riding in a Fly: and yet with
all my assiduity have not gone
through

through more than a third of
my list. At Mr. Thornton's I
met Mr. Kelle: but had little
opportunity of conversing. He
preached yesterday. A good plain
sermon: but I thought rather
deficient in what the French
term unction: which from him
I should not have expected.
He has invited me to go to see
him, which on my next tour
into Kent, I should like to do.
About preaching at St. Paul's. It
is with much concern I say that
my present powers are hardly
equal to it: nor have I yet been
into

into a pulpit since my arrival but to administer the Holy
in England. The medical advice common; but so uncertain
given to me was, not to attempt on I until the moment arrives,
it for three months at least: & what my ability may prove that
every morning grips with it such you will much oblige me by
an unpleasant hoarseness that having another ^{administrator} ready to act as
the wisdom of this counsel, and my substitute in case of my
the necessity of my complying failing. If I had thought for a
with it are equally apparent. moment how long ago it is
Will you have the goodness to since Capt. Shadwell was at
offer this as my excuse for not Sydney, and what his age must
do as I have been requested: now be, I should hardly have
and I trust it will be thought jumped to the conclusion that
sufficient one. On the Festival he was the bridegroom elect. But
of the circumcision I will do my one forgets how time runs away
best Sir John Patterson kindly left his
Card

Card inscribed with the date of
his leaving town (last Monday) but
my own early departure on that
day prevented my trying even to
see him. I am present I will try
to reach to-morrow: on returning
from a visit of reverence to the
widow of my most upright and
cordial friend Norris of Hackney.
In Portraiture I will talk to you
about when we meet

The above comprehends I believe
all that I need say at present. &
therefore I now turn to another of
the 56 unanswered epistles now
before me: desiring only, before
concluding, to express my sincere
regard for Mr. Coleridge and all
whom you have associated with: and to say
that I am affectionately yours W. G. Sydney