

Who cut the tail off your last letter? — I was reading on eagerly, without observing the chasm at the end, & tumbled plump into it heels over head — tis a very disagreeable sensation — Did you ever make a spring at a hedge, not seeing the clay-pit on the other side? & — whizz! where are my legs! — But the contents of the first part of your letter are some compensation for its abruptness — You shall be right welcome my lad, & pray take out as long a furlough as possible — The Snipes shall present themselves to you, ready roasted — you shall take the digestible parts, & I'll take the long bills. (Don't come before the 16th.)

I have been browsing upon Currie's Edition of Burns's Works — the perusal of the prose part has cost me more blasts & excretions than would damn a regiment of foot soldiers, if oaths weigh anything in the Almighty's Scales, but I trust I am not yet blotted out of the Book of life!

Long before the day of final retribution, you know, Xt will be employed in casting up his Father's books, & balancing each man's account. Then ~~xxx~~ I ~~xxx~~ trust, when he comes to the letter M. he will find my name, with a long long list of good works under it — to be sure there will be a few peccadillos per contra & a short

account under the head "Mr. debtor to God".
but the balance will procure me a ticket
for the 1st seats in the heavenly Concert!!

I wander from my subject, which was
to tell you how I cursed Carrie Gregory &c
for their Damned criticisms — I wanted
You to pour myself out to — there is not
a soul here (that I know of) whose
taste reaches further than to know a
hot apple pye from a close stool. — You
say nothing about your Tragedy — it
may be your damned Tragedy by
this time.

I suppose that ~~what~~^{article} is in the rent
off part of the letter — Damn the
Postman's daughter for turning the end
of your letter into Curl-papers — I
should say turn-failing it into C.p.
may she become crooked & her hair
strait to all eternity —

When you come, I'll shew you a very

(dated by Lamb)

28. Nov^r. 1800

(Addressed):—

Mr. Charles Lamb
India House
London