

Oxford April 6<sup>th</sup> 1799. TM1213/3

Dear Manning.

If you received a letter which I wrote to you many months ago, you ought to have conceived me that you were well, and that you found the same delight in the friendship we have nourished, that I have so often expressed. I know not what employment you may have had which should have made you silent to the voice of friendship, or what new position you have taken that I have heard as yet of. Be that as it may I have a thought which entertains me and it gives me pleasure to communicate it to you. When I wrote last to you, an idea flew by me that we might from some place which by engaging our mutual attention should strengthen the union of our minds: the same idea still pursues me occasionally with equal ardor, but I am now a little better with my pen and sometimes think that I have given it a definite form. To day it passed me anew, and its character was more decisive. a thousand warm and animated sensations succeeded its flight, and a circle of graceful forms danced around me. fancy was actually employed, and after passing a thousand romantic valleys where happiness has so often been sought by the philosopher, and sometimes caught by the poet, she appeared distinctly to me under the following form. A large simple building seated gracefully on the

banks of the Thames <sup>within</sup> about a walk from Westminster, inhabited  
by eight or ten young people <sup>of superior minds</sup>, who were determined to dedicate  
their time to the pursuits of literature and had chosen to reside  
together to facilitate that intercourse of mind which matures  
the judgment and gives grace and beauty to the flights of genius.  
I have never seen a picture which gave me a more lively  
pleasure than this interesting group. a harmony of the most  
perfect kind reigned among them, and tho' the pursuits of each  
were different there were a thousand corresponding chords that  
vibrated ~~in complete~~ <sup>in complete</sup> unison. They differed on a thousand  
& subjects but were united in more. The interior of the  
building was again characterised by simplicity and elegance.  
each had ~~his~~ <sup>his</sup> many rooms as were necessary and a dining  
room only was reserved for the society in common. here  
they usually met about 6 and after dinner conversation  
became animated and amusing. in summer it was varied  
by a walk on the lawn, where those who were uninvited  
joined in the sports of their children, whilst the rest content-  
-plate themselves with the beauties of nature or joined in some active  
amusement.

Is this too, my dear Manning, one of those plans  
which charm in the closet and which the ills of artificial  
society <sup>would</sup> render ~~unprofitable~~ ineffective? I have just said enough  
to make you perceive the train of ideas which has so de-

lighted me and I think you will exclaim with me that you  
could be happy in such a society. Tell me however your  
real sentiments: and if they coincide not with mine, you  
may perhaps be led to propose something better or to mould  
my little building till it pleases you. I know no one  
except yourself whom I should wish to be one of ~~our~~ this  
little community: I think however that Coleridge would be  
a desirable member and pleased with the proposal. I think  
a little consideration will convince you that it is material  
all the members should be about our own age. If we  
adopt any such plan there will be a thousand inferior things  
to settle, such as whether there should be a common library,  
whether there should be any regulation for the order  
of scientific researches, such as the establishment of  
chemical apparatus, any collection for the elucidation of  
natural history &c. &c. such things being expensive must be  
established in common if ~~with~~ <sup>with</sup> our united efforts we could  
create such riches as to be equal to the purchase, if we were  
without them.

Herrn Teuthell  
im Saulischen Hause  
auf der See-Gasse  
in Dresden.

If you are laughing at me  
me at least hear all the good  
on the subject that I may

ly. Teuthell.

I write to you immediately or I may  
be removed and never get your  
letter. I give you the german direction  
but I think it safer.

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could be happy in such a society. Tell me however your  
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to trouble, such as whether there should be a common library?  
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of scientific researches, such as the establishment of  
chemical apparatus, any collection for the elucidation of  
natural history &c. such things being expensive must be  
established in common if ~~with~~ <sup>with</sup> our united efforts we could  
create such riches as to be equal to the purchase. if we were  
not so successful we must go without them.

Write to me immediately and if you are laughing at me  
for my supposition abundantly let me at least hear all the good  
things you and Gary will say on the subject that I may  
join in the laugh with you.

Wm. Guthrie  
~~and that is false~~

W. Guthrie.

write to me immediately or I may  
be unwell and never get your  
letter. I give you the German direction  
and I think it safer.



MS

April 6, 1799

Mr. Thomas Manning

to the care of Dr. Davy

Senior Tutor of

Trinity College, Cambridge

St. Andrew 7/5 England

~~MS  
1799  
April 6  
1799~~

