

Mr. Southey 14 Nov.
1820

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The Reverend Dr. Bell
Parham House
Durham.



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My dear Sir

The original error in this unpleasant business can I think only be explained by supposing an error in writing 3 or 500 - instead of 3 or 4 - in reply you advised the larger sum, & most unluckily Mrs. W. in her letter to me specified no sum when she said her "delt" was lying in the bankers hands at my disposal. - I desired Bedford to go with the draft, - not entering into any further explanation with him, - then told of letting him (as a friend & man I felt every thing said concerning me) how I became entangled & such a sum. His reply, upon the receipt of such I sent to you, said "yesterday I carried your draft for acceptance & then it is done will take care that it shall be accepted. If I should find it not worth in the mean time, you must enquire for it of Mr. Walker. The Chief Clerk in Collier's Hand who has kindly undertaken to do what is necessary in the business." - Already I understood by Mrs. W. that he had carried it to Mr. Walker & that it had been accepted. - But this letter was dated Nov. 4. Nov. 7 he writes to Mrs. W. that I sent you a copy, & upon re-examining that letter it appears to me that my first opinion was right. - The Messrs. of Robt. & Co. refuse to accept the Bill which I presented to them &c.

The inference seems to be that they accepted it at first conditionally, - as
it was drawn (as you have seen or may be advised) - that they wrote
concerning it to Slane, & received the advice which led to its rejection.
This seems to be the natural inference, & yet I can hardly think it
possible. For if I had drawn beyond the intended amount, you will
surely have concluded from our & suitable conclusion, that I could have com-
mitted ~~an~~ a fraudulent & scandalous action. But however that may be,
my character is brought into question at the Boarders.

For the first time in my life I am utterly at a loss how to act. Bedford
is at this time too closely engaged at the University & also too much involved
with the Boarders, - & unable to enter into explanation with Peter, & ask
his permission to draw for the smaller sum, such as ^{he} had ^{previously} on
my defence, & expressing a doubt whether that permission might be granted.
Took the business of protesting it I had, as you know, written to do, except to
feel the whole impracticable & the whole innocuous. The bill is in Bedford's
hands. I can desire him to burn it & to pay the costs incurred, &
I am inclined to think that the best - & only course I can pursue is to do
this, & let the matter rest, but you have an opportunity of explaining it.
The money would have come reasonably, - but even then it may not, it
will be nearly expired, this vexation being taken into the account.

Of course I can have no stomach to combure the memoir which is now
unaccountably plain, - whenever I think now have been asking you some questions
concerning the Bedford school, - a topic of less small importance in such a

memoir, - especially considering the gravity of facts which I have to work upon.

There is nothing which I dislike more than troubling any person about my concerns,
and particularly when they are of a vexatious kind. And yet I am troubled by
very you, who have so many & such important concerns of your own! - You
no doubt understand that the unlucky act of noting the bill was done by
Coulton Clerk, or his own judgment, - but supposing it to be a matter of course.
I have never got myself into a scrape since I left school, - but other persons
have got me into a great many. Forgive me, my dear Sir

& believe me your affectionately

Robert Southey.