

if you take it, then (having come out as an import
import) it will go home as an export. Hence,
if I send it home now, it will go home as bal.
last, simply as a burden, and of course to anybody.

Wm. Young Esq.
London

Friday Night - December 13, 1844.

My dear Sir,

On Wednesday night, ^{in answer to} ~~in answer to~~
your note of Wed. morning, I wrote an
answer. Unfortunately on Thursday morning,
when it should have been moved off into your hands,
suddenly the discovery was made - that I had
written it upon the back of a tailor's bill.
Fearing therefore - that, if the wrong side of the
note presented itself first, you might be disturbed
by finding that you owed twenty pounds more than you
had supposed, - I kept it back; and now,

except as to ^{and they fail to} ~~copy~~ ^{copy} the exact note of
yesterday night.

My Dear Sir, — I was myself aware
from the first that it would not be prudent to ad-
vance upon unknown ground in this great
question [so truly a national question] until I had
obtained the benefit of your advice. Francis
had also not forgotten to convey your caution upon
this subject a week or ^{two} ~~two~~ back. So that I
should not have proceeded in the work. But
I am not the less obliged to you for your note
of this day; sensible that your kind intention
was — to prevent my throwing away any labor.
In fact a mistake as to this point of the

Dick's request might have made it necessary
to recast the whole paper.

I shall be much gratified by your coming
over as you promise; and if a night ~~after~~
Monday the 16th [any night whatever] would suit
your convenience, mine it would suit better
than an earlier night.

Believe me my respectful Compliments
to Mrs. Young; and am, my Dear Sir,
Ever your faithful servant,
Thomas de Quincy

P.S. Then a handkerchief of yours, which
Mrs. Young kindly insisted on my taking when I left
your house. I reserve it for your use: because,

DE QUINCY (THOMAS). (Author of "The English Opium Eater"). A.L.s. three and a half pages 8vo.

Copy.

Friday night
December 13, 1844.

My dear Sir,

On Wednesday night, in rejoinder to your note of Wedn. morning, I wrote an answer. Unfortunately on Thursday morning, when it should have moved off into your hands, suddenly the discovery was made-- that I had written it upon the back of a tailor's bill. Fearing therefore-- that, if the wrong side of the note presented itself first, you might be disturbed by finding that you owed twenty pounds more than you had supposed, -- I kept it back; and now, ^{erect a} ^{date} to duty and the tailor's "little account", x I copy the exact note of Wednesday night.

My Dear Sir, --- I was myself aware from the first that it would not be prudent to advance upon unknown ground in this great question (so truly a national question) until I had obtained the benefite of your advice. Francis had also not forgotten to convey your caution upon this subject a week or two back. So that I should not have proceeded in the dark. But I am not the less obliged to you for your note of this day; sensible that your kind intention was-- to prevent my throwing away any labour. In fact a mistake as to the point of the Dick bequest might have made it necessary to re-cast the whole paper.

I shall be much gratified by your coming over as you promised; and if a night after Monday the sixteenth (any night whatever) would suit your convenience, mine it would suit better than an earlier night.

I beg my respectful Compliments to Mrs. Young; and am, my dear sir,

Ever your faithful servant,
Thomas de Quincy.

P. S. I have a handkerchief of yours, which Mrs. Young kindly insisted on my taking when I left your house. I reserve it for your use, because, if you take it, then (having come out as an import) it will go home as an export. Whereas if I send it home now, it will go home as ballast; simply as a burthen and of no use to anybody.

(Folded for transmission through the post and addressed on back to
William Young, Esquire,
Lestwade.