

Thomas Noon Talfourd and his Friends, I.

Watson, Vera G.

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By VERA WATSON

From the first, Talford associated his future wife, Rachel Rutt² (with whom he had an "understanding," if not a formal betrothal) with the "Bar" (which was called to the Bar), with his literary friends, and there seems to have been no doubt that he was to be a member of "man's world," which was such a feature of social life in the latter half of the nineteenth century. In 1836, when he was twenty-three, he wrote to Miss Rutt: "I suppose that by this time you have been reading the Bible, and with the kind[est] of God's creatures Charles Lamb." If the volume you took to the Bar was the Bible, I am sure Gray you have had a real ideal, which might nibble the road even to Malden. But I am sure you will have done it, or I shall prevent your brother, for this day at least, of your going to the Bar. I am sure you are anxious to do so yourself." On another occasion he told her that he was "glad to hear that the Lambs late last night, being quite weary out with Special Pleading, & that they were to be at home to-day with you tomorrow, hope to get through all my immediate business by the time they are gone."

100100, August 21.

Temple, Tuesday evening, Jan^y 29
1822. I hoped, my Dearest Love,
to be able to write to you on

I have received an enormous number of copies from Mr. C. Lloyd, containing a large correspondence between himself and Wordsworth which he lays before me—alas! without fee—for my perusal and opinion. The origin of this mighty broil between the poets is this. When Mr. Lloyd first came to London, he with that characteristic restless and inquisitive spirit which his inspiration and his disease,¹⁰ not only deplored the tasteless questions of politics morals and taste, but the characters of his friends. In order to illustrate that of Wordsworth, he wrote a paper on the occasion of the presence of Hazlitt, that when our great philosophical poet was living in a

As you will probably want a little ready money shortly, I can without any inconvenience advance you £50 (if that will be any help); to be repaid, let us say, at £10 a year on the five Christmasmas follow[ing]. . . .

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