

**LAMB AND HAZLITT;  
FURTHER LETTERS  
AND RECORDS  
HITHERTO UNPUBLISHED**

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Lamb and Hazlitt; further letters and records hitherto unpublished by William Carew Hazlitt

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**WILLIAM CAREW HAZLITT**

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EDITED BY  
WILLIAM CAREW HAZLITT



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## INTRODUCTION.

IN the autumn of 1898 a circumstance occurred which placed in my hands a remarkable assemblage of papers illustrative of the lives of Charles Lamb and William Hazlitt. A very old and intimate friend of the present writer and of his father, and a warm admirer of the essayist and critic of our name, the late Mr. Raymond Yates, shortly before his death, did me the favour to restore to us certain letters and other documents which my father presented to him, it now appears, in 1838, and of which the existence or whereabouts was previously unknown. The acquisition of this small treasure coincided with my independent ownership by gradual means of several other inedited pieces by both authors, and it seemed to be worth while, and even expedient, to take steps to preserve them from destruction.

The long and close friendship between Lamb and Hazlitt, and the nature of some of these new additions to our stores, have led to the adoption of a plan, by which the whole of the matter hereinafter given is, as far as possible, arranged in chronological order, and although the material placed at my disposal by Mr. Yates comprises letters hitherto inaccurately and imperfectly printed by all the editors, it was thought advisable, on the whole, to limit the present undertaking to what I believe to be unpublished compositions, with a connecting explanatory gloss. The little volume may be treated as a sequel and companion to Messrs. Bell & Sons' edition of the *Letters*, 1886, and the book edited by me in 1897 under the title of *The Lambs*. The remainder of the matter must be held over till a really final edition—at present impracticable from the want of certain important *desiderata* known to exist—of such of Lamb's writings as may be judged worth perpetuation, is undertaken.

I shall in a prefatory way endeavour to point

out the change and progress which only a year or two have accomplished in reference to a subject on which the discoveries appear to be almost as inexhaustible as the public interest.

#### 1. CHARLES LAMB.

*Lamb's Family, the Brutons, Fields, and Gladmans.*

Lamb preserved his acquaintance with the Brutons of Wheathampstead down at least to 1823, when we find a letter of thanks addressed to Farmer Bruton and his wife for the present of a sucking-pig. But the writer had spoken of Mrs. Bruton in a letter of 1819 to Manning, who also knew the family.

Under date of December 30th, 1898, Mr. D. Yeo Bruton writes to me:—

“Have you, may I ask, at any time met with any information showing Charles Lamb's connection with the Hertfordshire Brutons? I imagine they were an old yeoman family, who settled in Hertfordshire about 1690. *On Mackery End* is one of his most personal essays, where he avows his connection with the Bruton family, and their connection with the Fields and the