

Letter from Sir Laurence Peel to [Sir Peter Henry Edlin](#).

Sir Laurence Peel, 1799-1884, was the nephew of Sir Robert Peel, 1755-1830, and therefore first cousin to Sir Robert Peel, 1788-1850. He was called to the Bar at the Middle Temple on 7 May 1821. He was MP for Cocklemouth between 1827 and 1830. In 1840 he was appointed Advocate-General in Calcutta, and then appointed to be Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in Calcutta in 1842, where he remained until 1855. He was elected as Bencher at the Middle Temple in 1854 and Treasurer in 1866. He died on 22 July 1884 at his home, Garden Reach, on the Isle of Wight a few weeks after this letter was written. He has an entry in the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography.

My dear Edlin,

Friendship is fruitful in its many shapes,
I recognise in these delightful grapes,
The very juices of a finer vine
Than human culture rears, a Love divine
Glow on the coloured clothing of black skin
Infuses freshness to the dearth within
The bronchial throat, oh take (xxxxx) away
My thanks the worthless tribute : who can pay
Back to the giver of a grateful thought
His debt is full. Accept my silver groat.

Laurence Peel

Recovering slowly from bronchitis

May 31 1884

Ventor, I of W.

