

Zante, the child would be forthcoming. A scampavia was dispatched and away went some of the Odysseus family to Zante. The Custom House authorities could give no account of any child, but they stated that a box had arrived *via* Corfu, which it was much wished should be removed by the Greeks, as it smelt offensively. Whereupon the box was delivered and opened, and a child's body, dead some weeks, appeared; whether any invoice or remarks by Trelawny accompanied it I never heard. The child had died, and he took this grim and savage way of ridding himself of all connection with the Odysseus circle. I wonder I never thought, when in New Zealand some thirty-five years ago, and in constant communication with Mr C. A. Brown, of asking him if he had heard this story. My sister, who has been dead some fourteen years, was wife to the British Resident, Major John Longley, a brother of the late Archbishop of Canterbury, and she had heard it from Zanteotes, although it must have happened before John Longley became resident.

'I saw a great deal of Mr Brown when in New Zealand; poor gentleman, he made a great mistake in coming out to a then wild and savage country, and where he was miserable. His son had gone before him, and this was the inducement. He amused me by long stories of Keats, Shelley, Byron, and Trelawny, and your good father, and the Hunts, etc.'

This 'ghastly story' has found its way into the *DNB* entry on Trelawny, as well as into the biographical pages of Harold Nicolson and others. H. J. Massingham, however, in his *Memoir*, offers the version given to him by the grandson of Zella Trelawny, the supposed baby of the tale. According to this Zella went with her father to Italy when he left his Greek wife Tersitsa Kemenou, but lived to grow up and marry. It was the death by misadventure of a second infant which provided the nucleus for the scandal which was still current at Zante almost ten years later, when Cooke and the Longleys heard it.

This 1878 letter introduces also another of Cooke's literary associates, Charles Armitage Brown, in whose house at Hampstead the poet Keats had lived from 1817 to 1820, the painter Joseph Severn being also of the company. After the death of Keats in 1821, Brown continued his association with the Romantic group. Trelawny stayed with him in Florence in 1829, while Brown helped him with his *Adventures of a Younger Son*, and advised him on how to deal with that difficult widow, Mary Shelley. In 1837, Brown returned to England, living at Plymouth, where he lectured on Keats and prepared material for a biography. When he and his son Charles decided instead to emigrate, Brown handed all his papers on to Monckton Milnes, who used them in the first biography of Keats, in 1848.

Charles the son sailed for New Plymouth in the *Amelia Thompson*