

## John Woolman to Jane Crosfield.<sup>1</sup>

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Since I understood thy draft toward New England at this season of the year, I have felt a near sympathy in my mind toward thee, and also thy new companion, H. White.

Looking seriously over the stages and wide waters, and thinking on the hard frosts and high winds usual in the winter, the journey has appeared difficult; but my mind was turned to him, who made and commands the winds and the waters, and whose providence is over the ravens and the sparrows.

I believed thou understood his language, and I trust thy ear will be attentive to him, and in that there is safety in the greatest difficulties. "He that believeth maketh not haste," and there seemed a hint on my mind to give thee, that thou take a sufficient portion of that doctrine along with thee this journey. Should frozen rivers, or high winds, or storms sometimes prevent thy going forward so fast as thou could desire, it may be thou may find a service in tarrying even amongst a people whose company may not be every way agreeable. I remembered that the manner in which Paul made a visit to the island of Melita was contrary to his own mind as a man; we find, however, that by means thereof the father of Publius was healed of his fever, and many cured of their infirmities.

Farewell, my dear Friend,  
JOHN WOOLMAN.

12<sup>th</sup> day, 12<sup>th</sup> mo., at night, 1760.

The want of a suitable opportunity this evening occasioned me to take this way.

<sup>1</sup> From a small MS. volume in the possession of John Dymond Crosfield, of Liverpool. In addition to the above, the volume contains copies of letters to Jane Crosfield from Samuel Fothergill, Grace Fisher, Isaac Wilson, Hannah Foster, Jun.; and David Cooper, all dated about the same time.

Jane Crosfield's *Itinerary* states that on the date of John Woolman's letter she "had a meeting at Ancocas, and rode from thence to Mount Holly and lodg'd at Josiah White's." John Woolman records in his *Journal*, "On 11th of twelfth month, I went over the river, and on the next day was at Buckingham Meeting. . . . We visited Joseph White's family, he being in England." Joseph White's wife was, probably, Jane Crosfield's travelling companion referred to in the letter. There is a *Testimony Concerning Joseph White* at the end of *An Account . . . of John Churchman*.