

# James Montgomery to Sarah Smith, 1813

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Dear Madam

I am informed that you called on me this morning to accompany yourself and Miss Springmann to the National School, and that not finding me risen you proposed to call again this afternoon for that purpose. Though this is the second day that I have been confined in bed till noon, from the effects of a cold, I should not have hesitated on an ordinary occasion to have rendered my best services according to your desire. But your friend is not an ordinary person and I feel so much difficulty on the subject of introducing her to the National School (in its present state especially) that I really dare not do it. I am not one of the Committee, nor am I even eligible to serve on it, as the Church does not acknowledge me a member of its peculiar community. I am therefore an unprivileged subscriber only to the School. I was indeed nominated one of the original Committee, but when that Committee were pleased to depart from the principles which were understood amongst us to be the basis of the Institution, and to adopt a strict Church form in the day as well as the Sunday School, I became necessarily excluded from any share in the direction. I therefore feel myself in a very delicate situation with respect to introducing a stranger, of whom it is probable some jealousy may be entertained, and I must honestly confess—as the plain truth will please you better than any mere evasion,—that I have not the courage to risk the displeasure that might be excited by my compliance with your desire at this time. I therefore cast myself on your generosity to give me credit for a sincere wish to gratify your friend's laudable curiosity, without being at liberty in my own mind to do it. My apprehensions may be vain,—and no offence might be caused, by your friend's visit to the School, but I think at any rate, she had better be introduced either by one of the

Committee or some churchman qualified to be upon the Committee.

With sincere respect and esteem

I am your obliged friend & serv<sup>t</sup>

J. MONTGOMERY.

Iris Office.

Nov. 26. 1813.

[Addressed to]

Mrs. S. Smith.

Carrwood [Sheffield].

From the original in the possession of G. C. Dymond.  
A postscript gives the names of the persons on the Committee.

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## Edward Pease to Sarah Smith, 1827

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High flats 10 Mo. 24<sup>th</sup> 1827

Dear Friend

Sarah Smith

Perhaps thou wouldst learn that my dr Son John<sup>r</sup> is engaged in a visit to the meetgs in the West riding, & in the prosecution of this work, we thought thou wouldst have the kindness to take in two very poor pilgrims if thou wast not engaged with company, or otherwise—

the time we looked to as most likely, was seventh day next—as looking to sitting with the family at Newill<sup>2</sup> on our road from Barnsley (*if the road be passable*) there

<sup>1</sup> John Pease, the noted Minister, who was accompanied on many of his home-journeys by his father, as companion-Elder.

<sup>2</sup> Newhill Hall, lying to the East of a direct line between Barnsley and Sheffield, is an ancient mansion belonging to the Quaker family of Payne. It was built in the year 1785, by John Payne, who was born at Newhill Grange (now a farmhouse adjoining the Hall) in 1757. The Hall is of "Georgian" architecture with "Adams" mantelpieces and a handsome "Adams" ceiling in the drawing-room. An earlier John Payne married Ann Aldam, of Warmsworth, in 1708, having settled at Newhill shortly before his marriage.—(From private information, and the Friends' Registers.)