

is some uncertainty of our being with thee to dine, then please not to wait for us if we be not in by One Clock, as we then shall hope to be in, in nice tea time—I must trust to thy kindness to excuse all this freedom, & when we are favored to meet we must place it all either to the account of the Church, or that friendship which would have sincere gratification in having thee under the roof of the writer—I may add we have been enabled through favor to get along to the relief of my dear companion, and I trust without incurring the condemnation of frds³—but this I would speak humbly, freed from having whereof to boast—We unite in Love to thee &

I am

Thy affectionate Friend

EDWARD PEASE.⁴

³ Note the curious, cautious phrasing, once so much in use in records of religious visits.

⁴ Edward Pease (1767-1858), “the Father of Railways.” His letter is printed from a copy of the original, which is in the possession of G. Cecil Dymond, of Birkenhead.

Joseph John Gurney and Elizabeth Fry to Sarah Smith, 1829

Norwich 7 mo. 22^d 1829.

My dear friend.

I do not know whether thou art at home ; & if at home, I do not know what thou wilt say to me, when I tell thee that I propose coming with my wife¹ & little boy² to thy house next seventh day evening—It is not improbable that my dear sister Fry³ may also be of the party—& further (I hope I shall not alarm thee) my mother Fowler⁴ proposes coming to Sheffield that evening —& would of course wish to be as much as she can with her

¹ Mary, daughter of Robert and Rachel Fowler, of Melksham, Wiltshire, whom he married in 1827.

² Presumably, John Henry Gurney, b. 1819, a child of the first marriage, well-known naturalist.

³ Elizabeth Fry, *née* Gurney.

⁴ Rachel Fowler (1767-1833) *née* Barnard.

daughter. We should be on our way to Ackworth & wish to pass first day with Friends of your meeting.

I have ventured to propose to my mother to rendezvous at Carwood ; and of course those whom thou canst not conveniently take in can go to an Inn to sleep—or all of us, if thou art already full—

Hoping thou wilt excuse my freedom,
I am thy affect^{te} friend,

J. J. GURNEY.

[Addressed to]
Sarah Smith,
Carwood,
near Sheffield.

If absent

W^m Hargreaves.⁵

[postage 11^d.]

Upton lane 8/15/1829.

My dear friend.

I arrived safely at home last 3^d day & found my dear family as well as usual but my poor husband still in a low state and certainly such events as we have passed through are *very very* shaking as to this life.⁶ I feel the weight of the cloud upon my return after being a little diverted from it by the interesting objects of our journey.

I think that I engaged to give some little hints of my view of the state of your debt prison therefore I will endeavour to do it.

In the first place I consider the want of the separation of the sexes the most crying evil and a most unjustifiable exposure of the morals of both parties and that something should be done at once to remedy it at least the womens room should be locked up at night & they should have a bell that they could ring if they want any-

⁵ This was probably the William Hargreaves, who died in 1834, aet. 64. He had a son, William, and a daughter, Lydia, who became leading Friends in Sheffield, the latter being a Minister. Brother and sister were joint-owners of a cutlery business. A little knife is now in the possession of Margaret Evans (*née* Southall), marked W. and L. Hargreaves. William (died 1874) never married. In 1839, Lydia married Ralph Neild as his second wife. She died in 1859, aet. 63.

⁶ Owing to the failure of the business house in which her husband was indirectly concerned.

thing in the night—I think they should certainly be allowed firing as well as bread which is after all a scanty allowance for them. There should be divine service at least once a week and a suitable place for it as it is wrong & hard that prisoners for debt should be excluded the privilege of attending a place of worship. Thus far I think that the gentleman whose place it is should be induced to have these things attended to—Then I see that much may be done by benevolent ladies or gentlemen frequently visiting these poor creatures reading to them instructing them giving them books (as has already been done) and endeavouring to induce the poor prisoners to make such use of their time as may prove a blessing to them in after life also some attention might at times be paid to their poor families. I do not know that I have more to say upon the subject except to express my desire that a few of my dear friends at Sheffield may be induced to visit these poor persons because I do believe they would find it do good and very likely be blessed to many.

I remember with gratitude thy great kindness to me also C—T's⁷ attention. After all I have passed through I find the kindness and love of my dear friends a great cordial to me—

I could send my love to many at Sheffield but particularly wish to have it given to Mary Hargrave. My kind remembrances to the Harrisons—

and believe me with feelings of much love to thee & thy companion

Thy obliged friend,
ELIZTH FRY.

My kind remembrances to Sarah the maid.

[Addressed to]
Sarah Smith
Car Wood
near
Sheffield.

[postage 11^d.]

⁷ That is, Charlotte Tomkinson, the companion of Sarah Smith after Samuel Smith's decease. She married Wilson Burgess, of Leicester, in 1833.

The above letters are printed from copies made from the originals in the possession of G. Cecil Dymond.