

Dr. Gotbergill to Henry Zouch, 1778

Near Middlewich,

Cheshire 14th. Jnst. [1778]

My Worthy Friend

It was only two days ago, that I learned, to my great mortification, that the plants I proposed to send almost twelve months ago, and repeated the expectation, the last spring, are not yet sent.

In a letter I received 2 days ago from my Gardiner, is the following paragraph, " Mr Zouchs plants escaped me till lately, and as there are about a score of rare succulents mentioned, I could only send cuttings of some of them, which I think would be too late this year. Pray sir shall I let them alone till next spring, or shall I yet send a few hardy things which may not perhaps look so well ? "

My answer was to send what he could directly, and to make up next Spring with every thing curious we had to spare.

For the most part he is very carefull to observe my directions in these affairs. But two causes I apprehend, have contributed to this neglect. In the Spring, we were busy in adding to our shelter for tender plants—and the whole year near London has been so unusually dry that he has been fully occupied in watering and other necessary care. These circumstances I believe have been the causes of neglect, for which I am really concerned, and can now only acknowledge it in this manner and I hope we shall not be guilty of the like for the future. I do not suppose that for these 18 months past, we have had half our usual quantity of rain in the neighbourhood of London, and I hear not much more than a weeks moderate rain—during the whole summer, which has been and is severely felt by the grazing farmers, whose fields are burnt up, and in many places, they are obliged to fodder as in winter.

We have been at this place about 6 weeks ; in two more we set out for London—But I could not omit exculpating myself on this occasion, as I not only gave

directions at my return from Yorkshire last autumn, but repeated them this spring.

I believe, in this county, scarce a finer or more plentiful season has been known. The corn is for the most part got in near a month sooner than usual. At the place where we reside, we have a moderate share of wall fruit, and well flavoured. I planted the trees at my first coming hither, tho' on anothers premises, and they repay me plentifully.

There is one very singular circumstance, I cannot omit mentioning—There are few countys I believe more infested with Wasps and Hornets, in general than this. I have not seen one of either kind since we came hither—in former years it was scarcely practicable to preserve any fruit from their ravages.

Next spring we propose to make a little open [ing] at Ackworth. The purchase was adopted wi[th] much more chearfullness, than I expected, especially when I considered the general apprehension of worse times. I hope it may be a protection to innocence, and afford a sober education to many individuals. If they are honest, sober & industrious, let their peculiar modes of thinking be what they may, they cannot be bad commonwealth men.

My sister joins me in a fresh remembrance of thy kind attention to us last year, and accept our best wishes for thy health and happiness.

J FOTHERGILL.

[Address]

For H. Zouch
at Sandal near
Wakefield
Yorkshire.

[Endorsement]

Dr. Fothergill.

Copied from the original in possession of John Albert Bright, One Ash, Rochdale, 1915.

This letter was written in the year 1778, from Lea Hall, a country house, where Dr. John Fothergill was accustomed to spend two or three months in the autumn of each year from 1765 to 1780, the year of his death. It was addressed to Rev. Henry Zouch [1725?–1795], a fellow-Yorkshireman and friend of his, and a man of some position in the

county. They were in correspondence in the last year of Fothergill's life respecting an important County Association held in York, at which the political troubles of the times were discussed. The letter bears token of the writer's keen observation and interest regarding all natural objects, especially plants and trees, also of weather conditions—and ever with a view to the benefit of man. He alludes too to the successful carrying through the Yearly Meeting of 1778 of the scheme for the purchase of Ackworth School, in which he was the prime mover.

Note by R. HINGSTON Fox, M.D.

Recent Acquisitions to D.

JN addition to the unstarred literature introduced under the heading "Friends and Current Literature," the following items have been added to D. during the last few months :

Friends' Mission in Jamaica, by Gilbert L. Farr, Richmond, Ind., 1912.

Unexpected Tidings of the War and of the Future, with a Preface by the Countess of Portsmouth, and an introduction by Rachel J. Fox (both members of London Y.M.), London, 1915.

Proceedings and Addresses of the International Conference of Men Friends, Richmond, Indiana, October 20-22, Richmond, Ind., 1915.

Descartes, His Life and Times, by Elizabeth S. Haldane, 1905, with a portrait of Elisabeth, Princess Palatine (1618-1680), from a painting by Gerard Honthorst.

List of Personnel of British Red Cross Society and St. John, September, 1915; revised, as to Friends' Ambulance Unit in Flanders and Italian Ambulance Unit, to the end of 1915; presented by E. Harold Marsh.

A History of the Ancient Flemish Family of Tayspill, etc., 1272-1911, compiled by Joseph J. Green, in manuscript, 1911, 240 pp.

Marriage Certificate of George Crone and Mary Wright, Hardshaw, 1765.

Lists of Members and Attenders of York Monthly Meeting 1861, 1863, presented by Christopher S. Watson.

William Penn, par C. Vincens, Paris, 1877.¹

"Descendants of John Gray, of Southwark (b. 1680, d. 1728) and Mary his Wife (and those who have married Descendants) serving in the Forces of the Crown during the Great War of 1914." Privately printed by Perceval Drewett Lucas; corrected to 18 January, 1916.

Sundry papers, 1820 to 1837, presented by Barnsley Preparative Meeting, per William E. Brady.

Some Illustrations of Home Life in Lonsdale North of the Sands, by John Fell, of Flan How, Ulverston, 1904, presented by Mrs. Fell.

¹ "C'est un des premiers ouvrages de Mme. C. Vincens, qui en a écrit ensuite tant d'autres très-remarquables sous le nom d'Arvé de Barine." Letter from Pasteur Ramette to Joseph G. Alexander, 1916.