

welfare, I have endeavoured to discover thy condition, but my enquiries were fruitless ; and I am left in painful uncertainty of thy state—to know thou art well and happy will give joy to my heart !—

There are in this city, and within the circle of my acquaintance, many amiable and some great minds, who love thee with true affection ; their interest in thy happiness, make them desirous of a satisfactory account of thy present condition ;—be assured none but worthy motives have produced this letter, the heart by which it was dictated, breathes a prayer to Heaven, that thou mayest be blessed with peace on earth and with that wisdom, which shall finally lead thy soul into the world of eternal joy.

I am truly with respect
and affection, thy friend,
JOSEPH BRINGHURST,
29, Union Street,
Philadelphia.

A female who is alone in her room, at an hour almost approaching midnight, adds her testimony to the above lines—and with a grateful heart acknowledges the pleasure thy writings have given her ; may that Power that has heretofore enlightened thy understanding continue to be with thee and bless thee.—May thou be preserved from evil, and know thy evening sun to be set in brightness, and when thy journey through life is at an end, may thy immortal spirit, which hath so sweetly sang the praises of thy Maker on earth be admitted to join that assembly, whose harps are attuned to His praise, in a region where sorrow cannot enter !

The above letter was printed in Chester, Pa., in 1800 (copy in D), without the name of the writer. Name, address and date have been supplied from a ms. of the letter in D.

Is anything known of the receipt of the letter ?

William Crotch and the Poet Cowper

“ **T**HE incident to which I refer is the account of a visit paid by William Crotch to Cowper, the poet. William Crotch was a man . . . of a deeply religious character, and possessed in an extraordinary degree the gift of spiritual discernment. Being once in the neighbourhood of Cowper, he felt a religious concern to pay him a visit. He accordingly went to the house. A man-servant came to the door. William Crotch requested to be introduced to his master, but the servant replied that his master saw no one, and he had strict injunctions not to admit anybody. William Crotch was rather disconcerted at this refusal, and he continued to urge his request ; but still in vain. At length he said, ‘ Go and tell thy master that a poor creature like himself wishes to

see him.' The servant carried the message in, and presently returned with his master's permission to introduce the stranger. On entering the room where the poet was sitting, William Crotch walked up to him, and, without any other salutation, took him by the hand, and sat down by his side. For one whole hour they thus sat hand in hand, without speaking a word. In relating the circumstance, William Crotch said that during the time that they thus sat in solemn silence a clear conviction was afforded him of the extraordinary purity of Cowper's mind. He at length addressed the poet, and, having in this way disburdened his spirit, he took leave of him, well satisfied that he had obtained the interview."

Copied from *A Memoir of James Hurnard*, 1883, p. 51.

Frederick Smith and the Poet Cowper

Haymarket

19th of 3rd mo. 1792.

Respected Friend

W^m Cowper Esq

Olney,

Bucks.

Having accidentally heard some days since whilst on the borders of your County a report which afflicted me with a degree of concern, I thought I should not be satisfied without informing thee of it, as it certainly militates against thy repeated sentiments of Liberty and directly opposes the Idea thou hast given in some of thy excellent poems, that "the slave trade is oppressive and cruel and ought to be done away from this Country." What I heard is as follows, "that on reading the History of Africa thou had found that formerly the Species increased so fast that they were under the necessity of destroying or eating one another lest the country should be overstocked with Inhabitants, and on this ground thou objected to move in a petition to Parliament saying that the present mode of the slave Trade was preferable thereto;" the report came through a channel that rendered it exceedingly specious, it would give me much satisfaction to contradict it, and which I certainly mean to use every endeavour to do, if thou wilt favour me with materials for the purpose. I trust thou wilt excuse the liberty I have taken as I can assure thee it arises from an esteem I have felt towards thee on account of thy Philanthropic and Christian sentiments and which as I doubt not thou art really possessed of, thou wilt not lose thy reward in publishing to the world.

With much regard, I remain,

Thy friend

FREDERICK SMITH.