

To Poor and Rich Alike

“TWO extraordinary meetings were appointed on 1st day (7 mo. 8th), at three o'clock in the afternoon; one by Samuel Capper, of Bristol, for the poor of Spitalfields, the other by Elizabeth Fry and H. C. Backhouse at Westminster meeting house, to which the nobility were invited. That in Spitalfields was satisfactory, not very largely attended, but quiet and orderly and the people clean and decently dressed.

“That at Westminster was attended by many persons of rank, which pretty well filled that part of the house usually occupied: The Duke and Duchess of Sutherland, Lord Morpeth and family, Lord and Lady Blessington, Chancellor of the Exchequer, Marquis Wellesley, and many others of the same class.

“The meeting was solemn and appeared satisfactory to all parties. William Allen appeared in supplication, then E. Fry in testimony and Hannah Backhouse and I believe lastly E. Fry in supplication—after which she rose and said she apprehended the meeting was ended, but if she was allowed, she would add a few words of exhortation respecting the perusal of the Holy Scriptures. Although the frequent reading them in private she considered an important duty, she believed great advantage would be derived from families and servants being daily assembled for that purpose which she strongly recommended.

“William Allen and Samuel Gurney and, we believe, George Stacey were engaged in delivering the notices which in many instances were handed to the person. Others were enclosed, and on the envelope, the direction, and the name of the person by whom it was sent, which ensure its reaching the hand it was intended for.”

Extracted from the copy of a letter dated 7 mo. 11, 1838, found among the papers of the late John Frank, of Bristol, recently presented to **D**.