

William Allen's Third Marriage

JULIET M. MORSE has kindly sent us the following extracts from letters written by her grandmother, Isabella Harris, to her mother, Isabella Tindall, and her sisters. Her cousin, Mrs. Tindall, writes :

I am quite willing that you should publish anything you like from these letters and you can mention great grandmother Tindall and her daughters, but I should like the two addresses given as Knapton Hall, near Malton, Yorkshire, and Long Westgate, Scarborough. They occupied both houses, Knapton Hall being the country home, and Long Westgate was lived in, in the winter months. The house in Long Westgate, with the fine view and sloping garden, was not called The White House till later, when John Tindall faced it with white bricks. It was occupied by the Tindall family till after 1870.

Isabella Mackiver = John Tindall, of Knapton Hall and Long Westgate, died 20th November, 1809.

several sons	Jane	Ann	Isabella =	Edward Harris of	Sarah =	Fredk.		
	d.	d.		Stoke Newington.	Janson; lived in			
	unm.	unm.			William Allen's			
					former home in			
					Church Street,			
					Stoke Newington.			

We are glad to present this stirring event from another point of view. See xviii. 29.

Isabella Harris to her Sisters, Jane, Ann and Sarah Tindall, dated 1 mo. 30, 1827 :

. . . How the matter will terminate with W. Allen and G. Birkbeck, we cannot yet tell. Some think it impossible they can proceed in opposition to public opinion, while others advise them going forward, as it has been named at all. They are really placed in it in a peculiarly humiliating and trying situation being the butt of ridicule, and the pens of several have become active in composing sarcastic verses for the occasion. Some one has been at the trouble to have one long piece lithographed and numerously circulated.

It is really painful to see two such characters so played upon as they are. If they say, as they both do, that they have believed it a right step

for them to take, they are only laughed at and no better motive than money is allowed for W. A., while they admit that love is G. B.'s etc., etc. [*sic*] too ridiculous all to retail.

Whether this storm can arise from the thing being wrong, whether from the fury of our grand Adversary or may be permitted for their humiliation, or perhaps, other wise ends that we cannot see, we must leave; but really it is in a state that now gives one painful uneasiness, and, situated in the midst of it as we are, we cannot but deeply feel with the parties concerned.

William Allen says it is a thing he has looked at for the last 2 years, and it has always turned up in his mind with peace; that it has been the subject of his fervent prayers that he might not be suffered to do wrong, and he thinks the evidence has been as clear in this as in many other instances wherein he has believed himself rightly led.

I think you are aware that the committee that met could not take upon themselves to say it was wrong, but recommended them to reconsider the matter before they proceeded.

Thomas and R. Christy have been much opposed to it and on sixth day week, Rebecca came, intending to reason with G. Birkbeck and tell her fully her mind respecting it.

Betsy Fry met her and William Allen also, spent the day with them in Paradise Row. After it, R. Christy told Susanna Corder that they passed such a sweet day together, they scarcely knew how to separate. They did not leave them till 8 o'clock, "and, oh!" she said, "I wish the world could see the sweet and tender state in which G. B., in which they both are, I am sure it would melt the hardest heart. They are in a far better state than any of us, and whichever way it terminates, I believe it will be right; as to the matter itself they are quite undecided, desiring nothing but the Divine Will in it."

Since this time we have not conversed with either of them on the subject. I have been only once at each house since the matter transpired for I feel it best to keep quietly at home, and have but little to say in any way. I have seen scarcely anything of the Bradshaws since.

James¹ is quite the champion for the Newington couple, but he almost stands alone in their defence.

The same to the same, not dated:²

William Allen and Grizell Birkbeck have come to the conclusion of passing our M. Meeting on 4th day, but this intention is known only to their immediate circle at present. It continues to be a subject of painful animadversion, but you will be able to hear all particulars from F. [Frederick Janson] better than I can write them.

G. Birkbeck paid S. Corder a visit yesterday, which she says is the only house, with the exception of her own, she has been in of a month.

¹ Probably the writer's brother, James Tindall.

² From internal evidence, the letter was written early in 2 mo., 1827.

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The death of John Corder³ prompted her to this exertion, to sympathize with poor Susanna. He breathed his last on 5th day morning and is to be interred on 4th. at Epping. After expressing her feeling for Susanna, she freely entered into her own matter, saying she could truly say she felt no less love to any of her friends for the way in which they had taken it up, but on the contrary increased for those who had opposed it. She seems to have no doubt in her own mind of its being a right step; and this they both say, which no doubt bears them out tho' what they have to pass through is truly humiliating.

The same to the same, dated 16 3 mo. 1827:

William Allen's furniture is now moving from the house [taken by Frederick Janson, in Church Street, Stoke Newington] to Lindfield where he has built a residence and he and his bride have gone there for a few days previous to their settling down together in Paradise Row.

The marriage was solemnized at Hammersmith on 4th day [14 iii. 1827], which, I understand was a satisfactory meeting. The company all dispersed but five, who dined at the Inn, where a dinner was ordered for any who inclined.

Five or six ridiculous caricatures are exhibited in the shop-windows, but I should hope it will settle now that the marriage is performed.

The same to the same, dated 19 and 20 iii. 1827:

I expect William and Grizell Allen will come home to dinner to-day, after their little journey to Lindfield and to Brighton.

Catherine Bradshaw called here this morning on her way to Tottenham to dine with M. Woods. Anna B. is gone to Lindfield and Maria takes her departure for Ireland, while Eliza and Lucy are left in Paradise Row to receive the couple.⁴

³ John Corder died 1 ii. 1827, aged 68. He was uncle to Susanna Corder.

⁴ Catherine Bradshaw may have been the wife of Joseph Hoare Bradshaw (1784-1845), *née* Catherine Stewart (1799-1870).

The five nieces living with [Grizell Birkbeck were Sarah (c.1778-1855), Anna (c.1783-1856, married Joseph Pease, Senr., of Darlington), Grizell Maria (1785-1848, d. in Ireland), Eliza (1790-1841), and Lucy (1792-1862), daughters of Thomas Bradshaw and Sarah Hoare, sister of Grizell Hoare—Birkbeck—Allen. They were aunts of Henry Bradshaw (1831-1886), Cambridge University Librarian (see xviii. 39). Of Lucy Bradshaw it was said in the *Annual Monitor*: "Her filial attentions soothed the latter years of the life of her dear uncle, William Allen, in whose works of benevolence she largely participated."

In one of the above-mentioned caricatures a procession, headed by W.A. and G.B. in hilarious mood, is closed by five young women weeping bitterly.

Hoare MSS. in J. J. Green Collection in D, etc.

I think I told you the Meeting was very satisfactory at Hammer-smith. T. Foster, who is their staunch friend, told me I ought to have been there, it would have done me good to my heart's core! Rachel [? Christy] says she never sat in a more agreeable meeting. E. Hanbury also said it was all that they could wish. I sincerely hope they may be blessed in their union.

20th. The Bride and Bridegroom came before 10 to pay us a morning call, so they do not stand on much ceremony. G. A. enquired very particularly after you all and was glad to hear of your welfare. It sounds so odd to hear "Cousin W.A." converted into "Husband."

An account of Y.M. 1827 states :

W. and G. Allen have lodgings in Leadenhall Street, which leaves Plough Court to Cornelius Hanbury, etc. We hear that Wm. and G. Allen have had many visitors at their lodging. Their marriage is much more leniently treated by country Friends than by Londoners. A good deal has been said on tale-bearing in our meetings.

Friends' Relief Work

"The other bright gleam on the dark sky-line of European politics in these years will be the Society of Friends. The Quakers have done infinite things for the relief of distress in Europe. A gallant young soldier told me of the strength he received whenever he saw set up on a hut somewhere in France, "Société des Amis." In every big city and in countless little villages of Europe their work has been quietly and persistently carried on without noise and self-advertisement, with no looking for praise, and no expectation of reward. It began with the war. It has been carried on during the peace. Many workers have died of their labours, poisoned with typhus germs or collapsed from overwork. Hundreds of thousands of sufferers will live to bless them, who would have died but for their work. Countless little children have been saved alive or preserved from stunted manhood or womanhood through them. Their selfless devotion has softened the cruel impressions made by the war. Their presence amongst the defeated has saved from utter hate and despair many of those who pictured the foe to themselves as wholly given up to revenge. To the Friends must be given the credit for the preservation of such little faith and idealism as may still be left in Europe."

From *A Political Pilgrim in Europe*, by Mrs. Philip Snowden, London, 1921.