

The Visit of Priscilla Green to Lord Mount Edgcumbe

PRISCILLA GREEN (1802-1877) was the third daughter of Joseph Markes Green, of Jordans, Saffron Walden (where she was born), and Little Chesterford, Essex. She was delicate from her childhood, and was so tall and attenuated that "as thin as Priscilla Green" became a proverb in Walden. She first spoke as a Minister on her thirty-first birthday and was "recorded" in 1836, and from that time until within the last few years of her life when ill-health prevented, she was almost constantly employed in ministerial service, often being away from home for months at a time. She travelled extensively in Great Britain and Ireland, in the Channel Islands, and, with her friend Mary Nicholson, of Whitehaven,¹ paid an extensive visit to Friends and others in North America, 1856-58

With her friend, Mary Nicholson, P. Green also visited the President of the United States, James Buchanan, who received them very kindly. P. Green delivered a gospel message and offered a striking prayer on his behalf. "On parting the President thanked them, and said he hoped he should become a wiser and better man."

Priscilla Green's appearance, character, and voice were all very striking. She was very tall, and as we have said, had a delicate and attenuated frame. Owing to her life-long delicacy, she usually wore a blue veil over her Quaker bonnet, which she raised when engaged in the ministry.

Considering her poor health, her eyesight being also much affected which necessitated her living in a darkened room, nothing but a supreme sense of duty could have impelled her to take the large part she did in the exercise of the ministry, and she was frequently laid up in the course of her engagements away from home.

¹ Mary Nicholson (1797-1867), a Minister; obituary memoir in *The Annual Monitor*, 1868.

We now come to P. Green's visit to Lord and Lady Mount Edgcumbe, with her companion, Hannah Christiana Price, of Clifton, Bristol, formerly of Saffron Walden.

H. C. Price wrote a long letter of eight pages to her "Respected and dear friend, Mercy Green," dated Plymouth, 1st mo. 28th, 1853, giving a long and interesting account of this visit.

The noble lord was Ernest Augustus, third earl (1797-1861), and aide-de-camp to Queen Victoria. He married, in 1831, Caroline Augusta, eldest daughter of Rear-Admiral and Lady Elizabeth Theresa Feilding.

The letter of H. C. Price is as follows (original in **D**) :

Thou wilt I think be some what surprised to receive another letter from me so quickly following my last, but having yesterday accompanied my beloved friend in paying so remarkable a visit, I cannot help wishing that thou shouldst be made a partaker in that which has been so perculiarly interesting, and instructive to all, I think I may say, who have in any way been connected with it.

Very soon after our arrival at Plymouth thy beloved daughter felt her mind strongly attracted to visit the Earl of Mt. Edgcombe, whose very beautiful seat lies across the water, nearly opposite to Plymouth. This attraction she did not mention to anyone until after the public meeting on first day evening, but it was remarkable that during our sojourn in this place we have heard in a casual way many interesting particulars of the Earl, who, it appeared, was a great invalid. After Meeting, my beloved friend requested a few friends to remain, when she told them of the burden which had long rested on her mind. After some little consultation, it was agreed that a note should be sent direct to the Earl. The following reply was received :

"Lord Mount Edgcumbe is unable to write, but dictates this reply to Charles Prideaux. For three or four months he has not felt himself equal to receive any one into his bedroom, but members of his own family ; he feels however extremely unwilling to refuse the kindly and flattering proposition of

Priscilla Green: if therefore the wish expressed continues, and if she will think it worth while to come to Mount Edgcumbe at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 1 or two o'clock on Thursday, Lady M^t Edgcumbe will be happy to receive her and communicate to Lord M^t Edgcumbe her wishes, or conduct her to his room if at the time he feels in a fit state to receive her.

“Mount Edgcumbe, Tuesday, January 25th, 1853.”²

Yesterday this important visit was paid. After attending the interment of an aged friend, Mary Fox, a carriage took us to the water's edge. We were accompanied by Charles Hinton an agreeable friend of this place. It was a beautiful day, and the water so calm, that under some circumstances we might have much enjoyed the excursion, notwithstanding the cold. On the opposite side we had a considerable walk before we arrived at the Mansion, the door of which was quickly opened to us and we saw that we were expected. The servant conducted us thro' several grand apartments, at length opening the folding-doors of an elegant sitting-room, which we found vacant. After sitting a considerable time, the Countess made her appearance; she appeared very kind and affable, asked us to take luncheon, which of course we declined; she then requested my dear friend to inform her what was the object of her visit, and she would convey any message to the Earl. Thy dear daughter then told her a little of the practices of friends and also of her own feelings. She then left the room to go to the Earl; Ch^s Hinton followed her and explained still further *who we were* and how it was we were in Plymouth; this explanation was, I believe, quite acceptable, for a message came from the Earl to Charles Hinton requesting to see him first.

After waiting for more than an hour (the doctors four in number being with the Earl), a part of the time alone, and a part with the Countess, who was very kind and showed us her Conservatory, we were at length summoned to the Earl's room, the Countess

² The original letter (in D) is addressed: “Charles Prideaux, 18 Frankfort Street, Plymouth,” and sealed with the Mount Edgcumbe arms and crest.

conducting us. It was comparatively quite a small room, a French bed in the middle on which lay the poor stricken Earl, we believe about sixty years of age [56], but looking much older in consequence of his long affliction. He is unable to move a limb, and requires four men to move him in a kind of sling. His grey hair and long beard gave him a very striking appearance, and altogether it was a very touching scene. He requested dear P.G. to sit so as he could see her, as he could not move his head. The Countess at first stood, but afterwards went into the adjoining room, and *fetches herself* a chair. We all sat down near his bedside, and the quietness was truly remarkable. After a short time of silence thy beloved daughter spoke most sweetly and instructively, and although I do not expect he heard any truth that was new to him, I think it must have come to him in an unexpected manner. Afterwards, when she had in a touching manner supplicated for him and his family, and rose from her knees, in a feeling manner he said *Amen*.

When we rose to go he said: "I thank you for this visit, I had fear a polemical discussion might be intended, as I told Mr Hinton, but I find it was nothing of the kind; I agreed to every word you have expressed and I thank you excessively for your visit." The Countess took us kindly by the hand; she seemed also to feel much. The poor Earl would I believe, have gladly shaken hands but he was unable; his countenance bad us a kindly and a feeling farewell.

We soon walked back to our boat and reached home about five o'clock. To myself it has been a truly instructive event and I am inclined to think it has been so in no common degree to many. At the first mention of the concern it appeared to some of the weak ones, amongst whom I number myself *first*, not a little formidable, and we have been led to *smile* at poor Joshua Treffry, who seemed quite knocked down with it, and having nearly ever since been confined to his house. We were ready to think that this affair was too much for him, but now he will hear how sweetly we were prospered, and *that* in every step of the way it may be encouraging to him, as I trust it will be

to me to be more trustful in future as well as more believing.

It is not surprising that dear P.G. should be feeling the effects of the exertion, and I think also the cold has tended to increase a cold which has been hanging about her for some time, and she is sweetly submitting to be nursed to-day, and perhaps we may find it needful to remain here until second day. . . .

Thy truly affectionate f^d., H. C. PRICE.

Upon a slip of paper in the autograph of P. Green's friend, Edward Pease, of Darlington, "Father of Railways," he wrote: "Cousin Eliza Barclay tells me [that] the Earl and Countess of M^t Edgcombe were on board the Bulldog [Man of War] when her sister [in-law] Anna [wife of John] Church Backhouse [of Darlington, the only daughter of Joseph John Gurney of Earlham Hall] died [in 1848, aged 27].

Abridged from an article written by J. J. Green, 13 July, 1920.

Thones Kunders (Dennis Conrad)

Elsewhere in this issue (pages 59 and 69) there are notices of Thones Kunders and his famous descendant, Sir Samuel Cunard. The following pedigree, taken from *Thones Kunders and his Children*, by Hon. Henry C. Conrad, Wilmington, Del., 1871, has been sent by Charles F. Jenkins, who has interested himself, unsuccessfully, to obtain a copy of this valuable book for D.

Thones Kunders was one of the thirteen original settlers from Crefeld, Germany, who followed Francis Daniel Pastorius and in 1683 settled Germantown, Pa. The first Friends' meeting was held in his home, one of the walls of which is still standing.

See *Guide Book to Historic Germantown*, p. 40.

Tones Kunders

Henry Cunreds married Katherine Streypers, daughter of William Streypers, one of the original settlers.

Samuel Cunard married, first _____, second Suzannah Foulke.

Abraham Cunard removed to Nova Scotia 1780, married there is 1783.

Sir Samuel Cunard, founder of the Cunard Line, died in London 4-28-1865.