

Patience Wright, Wax Modeller

In volumes iv. and v. there are references to Patience Wright, *form.* Lovell (1725-1786). Among manuscripts recently received from Mrs. Vere O'Brien (*née* Arnold-Forster) is a copy of a letter from John Dickinson, of Philadelphia, to Mrs. Wright, as follows :

Madam,

I now gratefully acknowledge the Receipt of two Letters from you, and intreat you to pardon my not answering them sooner. The Business in which I have been involved by the unhappy Affairs of our native Country, and a great deal of Sickness, have occasion'd so long a delay in writing to you, which I hope therefore you'll be so good as to excuse.

I heartily thank you for the Intelligence you have been pleased to give me, and shall be obliged for as frequent a Correspondence as will be agreeable to you.

America now waits for the Decision of Great Britain resolved at every hazard to resist Force by Force, with a *probability*, at worst, a *Chance* for Success; and, that, your Share of public Spirit must satisfy is better than the *certainty* of Poverty, Slavery, Misery and Infamy, that must overtake us and our Posterity by a tame submission.

Nothing less than an assurance of these Calamities falling upon us, and our Descendants, could have reconciled your loyal and dutiful Countrymen to the thoughts of bearing Arms, against the powers of our Sovereign & parent State. But the Schemes agitated against us are too evident for Men of the least Sense and Virtue to hesitate on the part they ought to take. Where our struggles will end, what strange Revolutions will take place, no human Creature can guess, if once the Sword is dipt in blood, for drawn it already is. For my part, I can only say, there are two points on either of which I shall esteem it my duty, when called upon, to lay down my Life. First, to defend the Liberties of my Country, against their meditated Destruction. Secondly, To preserve the Dependance of those Colonies on their Mother Country. May God Almighty bless and prosper her and them in a subordinate Connection with her, till Time shall be no more. I sincerely rejoice in the Success that has attended you in England. I have mention'd to several of my Brethren in Assembly, the propriety of sending for L^d Chatham's Bust, done by our ingenious Countrywoman; But the public Distresses render them too inattentive to the fine Arts; I will remind them of the Proposal at another Sessions.

I am with great Esteem

Madam

Your much obliged and

very humble Servant

JOHN DICKINSON.

Mrs. P. Wright
Pall mall
London.

Fair Hill Jany 30th 1775

(true Copy)

In letters from William Forster (1747-1824), of Tottenham, to his sister Elizabeth (originals belonging to Mrs. O'Brien) we read :

“ 10th Month 7th, 1773.

“ Patience Wright has been lately sent for by the King and was with him near two hours, they had a deal of discourse (she says) on politics &c & the distresses of the People, to which he seem'd to [torn at seal] she is now about his Figure.”

" 1st mo : 11th 1775

" I was [? went] to see P. Wright a few days since. She is still very warm against the ministry, yet conceives great hopes of a Change of them & consequently their measures soon as Parlt. sits again. She was then finishing her Fathers figure. He was a singular Character, a long white beard adorns his face which is very expressive, & not unlike Jn^o Woolmans and a large white Hat [on] his head. She has done an Indian Man & Squaw in their proper Dress and Attitude extra : well, I think, also the D. of Gloucester."

" 2 mo. 24th 1776.

" . . . the truly great and patriotic Col. Barré. I had seen his Figure at Wrights. I directly asked if she had not taken his Figure. He wonder'd I shou'd know him from it as indeed it was chiefly so ; he thinks her a sensible Woman and if her Education had been equal to her natural Abilities, she wou'd have shone more eminently."

D.N.B. states that Patience Wright, when in London to which she removed in 1772, " acted successfully as a spy on behalf of Benjamin Franklin." She was often visited in her studio by Benjamin West. Her husband, Joseph Wright, died in 1769.

The Cambridge " Journal of George Fox "

Continued from vol. xix. p. 104

81.—Vol. II., pp. 153, 416.—" And before wee was marryed [G. Fox and M. Fell] I was moved to write foorth a paper to all ye meetinges in England." The note to this, on page 416, connects the " paper " with the document—" Friends fellowship must be in the spirit," etc. In *The Second Period of Quakerism*, p. 263, W. C. Braithwaite connects the " paper " with one referred to in *The Spirit of the Hat* (1673), p. 42, which was so " ill resented and so much disliked that it was called in again, and a rare thing it was to get a sight thereof." W. C. B. adds : " No doubt the one referred to in *Camb. Journ.* ii. 153 (correct note ii. 416, accordingly)." The note ii. 416 re *Canons and Institutions*, is however, valuable in itself and took some time to prepare.

82.—Vol. II., page 147.—*Lazy Hill* was a corruption of *Lazar's Hill*, so called because a leper hospital was erected there—a resort of pilgrims intending to embark for the shrine of St. James of Compostella, the patron-saint of lepers. The hill, which was afterwards levelled, occupied the end of Townsend Street, between Trinity College and the river. It was known as *Lowsy Hill* in the time of Charles I.—EDITH WEBB, Dublin.

83.—Vol. II., p. 451.—" The date of the death of Christopher Fox is not known, but it took place, probably, prior to the visit of Charles Marshall to Mary Fox in 1671 ". In a letter recently sent by Mr. Henry Hartopp, of Leicester, to Elizabeth B. Emmott, it is stated : " Christopher Fox appears to have died before 1664, for at Michaelmass that year Mary Fox was taxed in respect of one fire-hearth in her cottage at Fenny Drayton."