

Bridewell Hospital and James Naylor

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COURT HELD ON FRIDAY, 15TH MAY, 1657.

JT is ordered by this court that James Naylor be presently removed by the steward and porter of this hospital out of the room wherein he now is, and put into the room now in the occupation of the widow Pollard over the chapel, and that the steward and porter and hempman of this hospital do observe and perform every matter, clause, and thing concerning the said James Naylor, mentioned in the former orders concerning him, as if he were kept and abode in the room wherein he now is, and that they be careful that he have all such accommodations and necessaries as are mentioned in the former orders, and such other as the committee for buildings and reparations shall further direct for and concerning him, who are hereupon entreated to give their directions from time to time in anything to be done for him of present necessity, being not contrary to the orders of Parliament, and that the doctor and chirurgeon shall have access to him according to the former orders, and that a door be made upon the stairs near unto the door of John Lea, Arts Master here, and that the locks of the door where he now is be taken thence, and set on the door of the chamber where the said James Naylor is to be kept, and the keys thereof to be kept according to the former orders.

COURT HELD THURSDAY, 28TH OF MAY, 1657.

This day the order of Parliament made the 26th May instant concerning James Naylor now in Bridewell was here openly read and seriously considered of by the president and governors here present, and then one William Rayment of All Hallows, Bread Street, London, barber-surgeon, came and desired that one William Tomlinson might be assigned a keeper to the said James Naylor, but the

said president and governors, conceiving that a woman would be more necessary about the said James Naylor in the time of his sickness than a man, did here resolve to assign a woman to be his keeper to provide necessaries for him befitting a sick man, and thereupon do assign Joane Pollard, an ancient widow in this hospital, to be his keeper to provide necessaries for him befitting a sick man such as he shall desire, and the matron of this hospital is to assist her therein, or if he shall not desire anything to be provided for him, yet that the said Joane Pollard do provide and tender unto him sugar supps, water gruel, or other fitting necessities for a sick man, and that Edward Winne do deliver the key of the chamber door where the said James Naylor lodges and of the door of the stairs [where] now is his custody, to Robert Lloyd, the steward of this hospital, which he here presently did, and that the said Robert Lloyd shall keep the door of the chamber, where the said James Naylor is lodged, locked but with one key, and the door upon the stairs locked with another key, until the court shall give further order therein, and shall permit and suffer the said Joane Pollard to have access to the said James Naylor to bring him necessaries, and to be and abide by him at all times as well in the night as in the day, as the said James Naylor shall desire or permit her so to do, and also the said Robert Lloyd do permit Mr. William Sedgewicke, a minister,² to have recourse to the said James Naylor, to confer with him according to the said order of Parliament, and also that the said Robert Lloyd do duly observe all other orders made concerning the keeping of the said James Naylor in Bridewell with the clauses above mentioned, and that, when he shall have extraordinary occasions to be absent, he do deliver his two keys aforesaid to the said Edward Winne to observe all things aforementioned concerning the said James Naylor, as he should have done till his return, and, if any extraordinary occasion not now known concerning the said James Naylor shall happen before the president and governors meet here again, the committee for buildings and reparations in this hospital, or any four of

² Perhaps the person referred to in a letter from Richard Farnsworth, 18 vii. 1657: "They brought a high priest to him (as his letter expresseth) and many went with him, and saw the priest's folly, which silenced many of the people but enraged the priest" (*Letters, &c., of Early Friends*, p. 53).

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them, are entreated to give further directions concerning him, still observing the orders of Parliament.

COURT HELD 20TH NOVEMBER, 1657.

It is ordered that the treasurer do give unto the widow Pollard 20s. for her pains and service in looking to and attending on James Naylor, and it is ordered that she suffer no person to come unto him, contrary to the orders of Parliament and this court.

COURT HELD THURSDAY, 14TH JANUARY, 1657 [1658].

The committee for buildings and reparations are entreated to meet here on Tuesday next in the morning, and to consider how and where James Naylor, a prisoner in this hospital, may be set to and kept at work during the time of his health and abode here.

COURT HELD FRIDAY, 29TH JANUARY, 1657 [1658].

At this court the committee for buildings and reparations are entreated to meet as soon as they can and to consider of some other fit place in this hospital to set and keep James Naylor, a prisoner here, at work during the time of his health and abode here other than the room wherein he was last kept at work.

COURT HELD FRIDAY, 25TH DAY OF APRIL, 1659.

The court being given to understand that the widow Pollard, who was lately ordered to be a nurse to James Naylor, a prisoner here, in the time of his sickness hath oftentimes let several persons into his room to see and speak with him there,³ and the order of the three and twentieth of May, 1657, concerning him being here read, the steward of this hospital was reproved for permitting of

³ The slackness of Joane Pollard enabled Friends to visit Nayler. Richard Hubberthorne writes, under date 5 xi. 1657/8: "I have been with J. N. three times since I came; he is loving and his love doth increase and he feels refreshment from those that be in the life and power of Truth" (*Letters, &c., of Early Friends*, pp. 54, 57)—a different estimate of his mental condition from that given by William Malyn to Oliver Cromwell (see note *re* Lord Packe). Alexander Parker also visited Nayler.

Despite the restriction as to "pen, ink and paper," Nayler managed to write letters and Friends to receive them.

the said widow Pollard to have the keys of the door where he is kept, and was charged to see the said order more duly observed in all things hereafter.

And the said James Naylor, being brought here into the court, and appearing to the governors to be in good health, and he acknowledging that he is now in good health, it is thought fit and ordered by this court that from henceforth, so long as he shall be in health and able to labour, he shall be set and kept at work and labour by Thomas Carpenter according to his orders in the turret over his lodging room, where he may have good air and that he shall have allowed him such diet as he shall desire, so much as he shall daily earn by his labour, or, if any friend shall send or bring him any necessaries, the steward shall permit them to go with him to the chamber door of the said James Naylor to deliver the same unto him but shall not suffer them to have any conference or talk with him, and the steward shall likewise permit the widow Pollard to come into his chamber to make his bed and to do any other necessary business for him, as often as he shall desire the same, and the committee for buildings and reparations are entreated that a working place in the said turret be made fit and convenient for him to work there, which the brick layer and carpenter had now here direction to do without delay.

[James Naylor was released from prison 8th September, 1659.]

By courtesy of the chaplain of the Bethlem Hospital we have received copies of *Under the Dome*, the Quarterly Magazine of Bethlem Royal Hospital, for June, containing a memoir of Sir Christopher Packe (see p. 29), and for September with a sketch of the life of Sir Richard Browne. Christopher Packe, "Our Republican President," was the son of Thomas Packe, of Kettering. He enters the court books in 1644 as plain "Mr. Packe" and soon becomes "Mr. Deputy Packe"; and later "Sir Christopher Packe" and "Lord Packe," but at the Restoration was brought down again to "Sir Christopher." He sat in the House of Commons as one of the members for London and was Lord Mayor. In 1682 he died, aged about eighty-seven.

In Nichol's *State Papers*, p. 143 (quoted in *Letters, &c., of Early Friends*, edited by John Barclay, 1841, p. 55), embodied in a letter from William Malyn to Cromwell, August, 1658, we read: "After sermon I spake with my Lord Packe and gave him an account of what I had done, and my Lord Packe told me he did intend to-morrow to wait on your highness to give a particular account of James Naylor. Truly, my Lord,

I look upon him to be under a resolved sullenness, and I doubt in the height of pride."

Of Richard Browne we must learn more seeing he saw fit to become a persecutor of Quakers. The article is headed "Our Restoration President." Browne was of Jewish origin and a member of the Woodmongers' Company. He was a fervent Presbyterian. His was a prominent position in the Parliamentary forces. He was elected an Alderman of Langbourne Ward in the city of London, in 1648, and was chosen Sheriff in the same year. It was 12th December, 1648, when he drove his coach to call upon Alderman Vyner, and he was about to alight, when Cornet Joyce arrested him, informing him that he had received orders to conduct him to Whitehall, where Fairfax and his staff had some questions to put to him. He suffered imprisonment for five years at Ludlow, Windsor, Wallingford and Warwick, from which he was released 28th June, 1654. From Presbyterian he became Royalist. He was elected Lord Mayor at Michaelmas, 1660, and became a member of the Merchant Taylors' Company. Sir Richard succeeded Sir C. Packe as president of the Hospital in 1660. His house was destroyed in the Fire of London. His death took place 24th September, 1669.

For Browne's interest in Quakers see *Thomas Ellwood*; *Besse's Suff.*; *F.P.T.*; *Sewel's Hist.*; etc.

A Fine Distinction

Henry Crabb Robinson (1775-1867) wrote in his Diary, *anno* 1820 :

"I left London on the 1st Aug. and reached Lyons on the 9th. On the journey I had an agreeable companion in a young Quaker, Walduck, then in the employ of the great Quaker chemist, Bell, in Oxford Street. It was his first journey out of England. He had a pleasing physiognomy and was staunch to his principles but discriminating.

"Walking together in one of the principal streets of Lyons, we met the Host, with an accompanying crowd. 'You must pull off your hat, Walduck.' 'I will die first,' he exclaimed. As I saw some low fellows scowling and did not wish to behold an act of martyrdom, I pulled off his hat.

"Afterwards, passing by the cathedral, I said to him: 'I must leave you here, for I wont go in to be insulted.' He followed me with his hat off. 'I thought you would die first!' 'Oh, no; here I have no business or right to be. If the owners of this building choose to make a foolish rule that no one shall enter with his hat, they do what they have a legal right to do, and I must submit to their terms. Not so in the broad highway.' The reasoning was not good, but one is not critical when the conclusion is the right one practically."