

## A Sudden Call for Help

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STEPHEN LUSHINGTON TO PETER BEDFORD

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MY DEAR FRIEND,

I know no one but yourself to whom I can apply. Coming up the Strand just now in a carriage I saw a boy lying at a door in a most miserable state—I had others with me and I was also robed having been at the consecration of the Bishop of Exeter, so I could not stop to send him to the Temporary Refuge.—I have no one at home who has the spit to obey any instructions & I am myself forced to return to Lambeth Palace.

The situation of this wretched boy seems to me, so miserable that I cannot refrain from requesting you to send some one to convey him to Temporary Refuge.—I know not exactly on what terms they are now admitted but I will most willingly bear all the expence.

He was when I first left him on the right hand going towards Charing Cross with some hay round his feet towards the lower end.—

I am sure you will pardon me.—

Ever yours truly,

S LUSHINGTON.

Sunday,

½ past 3.

[addressed].

Mr. Peter Bedford

Steward Street

Bishopsgate

To be delivered immediately

S Lushington

Dr. Stephen Lushington (1782-1873) was a philanthropist and politician and opposer of slavery and capital punishment.

The letter has been found among papers of Peter Bedford (1780-1864), the Quaker philanthropist, of Spitalfields, London and is representative of the multitude of matters which claimed the attention of our Quaker Elder.

Proceeding by induction we have been able to date the letter. There were several enthronements of Bishops of Exeter about the time when the letter was probably written, but the only *consecration* was that of Henry Phillpotts (1778-1869) which took place at *Lambeth Palace*, 2 January, 1831 (*D.N.B.*), which date, according to a table of dates consulted, was a *Sunday*. Hence the letter was written on Sunday, 2 January, 1831, at half past three.