

## Elizabeth Fry—"Public Property"

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Upton 6/24 1841.

Dear Friends

I am surprised and really sorry to hear that J. Fletcher has published my text book without my leave I think it was certainly wrong. My brother J. J. Gurney told me that he had given him the stereotype plates he brought from America this surprised me as I understood that they were a present to me & I told him I was in communication with you upon the subject & he must let me have the plates he then said that we must not publish without consulting him because he wanted to make some alteration in placing some of the texts & there we left it.

Therefore I suppose J. Fletcher has published without his knowing it.

I may once more say I am truly sorry for it & think it was a great mistake but I fancy that I am consider'd public property & therefore any book I have to do with is the same.

I am, with regard, your friend,

ELIZTH. FRY.

Written on four sides of a little sheet measuring 3½ by 4½. Original in possession of J. E. Whiting, of Leeds, 1928.

*Texts for every day of the year, principally practical and devotional*, selected by Elizabeth Fry, first appeared in 1831. There were two editions by Josiah Fletcher, of Norwich. Translations appeared in French, Italian and German.

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LONDON Y.M. 1784.—There is a valuable record of the attendance of London Y.M. in 1784 by Mary Shackleton, later Leadbeater, in which is mention of many Friends, English and American, and also a reference to the deputation of Women to the Y.M., begging for the establishment of a Women's Y.M. See *Pennsylvania Magazine*, vol. XL (1916):

"Esther Tuke says it is but the shadow of a women's meeting, but seems to hope that will not always be the case."—"In the Y.M., the women deputation had undergone a kind of cross-examination, and Men friends seemed ready to reject the proposal till John Eliot desired it should be taken into further Consideration"—request granted.