

A Quaker Newswriter

[For previous extracts from letters written by Richard Cockin to Sylvanus and Mary (Sanderson) Fox, see volumes xxi-xxiii.]

IX

Doncaster 18 9 mo. 1826.

MY DEAR SYLVANUS AND MARY FOX,

. . . A day or two before our last Mo. Meeting REBECCA STURGES called upon us, and under much exercise, communicated the impression her mind was under, that the time was now fully come for her to request being admitted a member, she has appeared to be deepning in the root, and increasing in weightiness of deportment since her first attending our Meetings, and for a considerable time past has in all companies, and on all occasions (for anything that I have heard or seen) supported the character of a consistant Friend ; we feel nearly united to her in the bond of religious fellowship.

I had a letter not long ago from DANIEL WHEELER, he and his family were then well ; he inform'd me with some particulars respecting the death of the late Emporess, who he esteemed to be a very amiable character. He said the present Emporer appeared to be pursuing a line of policy best calculated to engage the esteem of the various parties in Russia ; but after his becoming more firmly established on the Throne, when crowned, it was then expected that he would evince a more decided part ; with respect to the Bible Society at Petersburgh, he has so far countenanced the Clergy in their endeavours to put a stop to the circulation of the Scriptures, as not to direct the printing Presses to be put to work, which have been for some time stoped ; on which account Dr. Patterson, who was engaged by the late Emporer's orders, applied for leave to return to England, when he was informed that it was Emporer's desire he should return in six months, and that both his lodgings and Salary

shd be continued ; and when the Printer applied for his discharge as not now being wanted, a message was sent to him by order of the Emporer, querying whether he would have any objection to remain as Printer to his Imperial Magisty ; and as Prince Galizen appears to be his confidential Friend, the hopes of the most virtuous parts of the Inhabitants are animated with encouraging expectations that he will adopt the practice and sentiments of his worthy Predecessor.

With respect to Daniel Wheeler, he saise that since receiveing an official message from the Emporer, that he wished all the improvements to go on just in the same manner as they were, he knows no further respecting his sentiments towards him—he requested Daniel would send him a plan of what he had under his superentendance, and also an account of the disbursment of last year, with an account of the profits of the Land brought into cultivation, which (Prince Galitzen said) he read with great attention, and seeming interest, but made no observation as to either approveing or disapproveing thereof.

ROBERT and HANNAH WHITAKER were at Doncaster last week, with their Daughter who is now at Sarah Peacock's School—all the Family at Ackworth School are well. I have not seen Robt. and Hannah look better for a long time past. Robt. Whitaker sais LUKE HOWARD has finily recrutd since he came to Ackworth this time ; that he appears quite restored.

With the continued feeling of dear love to yourselves, in which my E.C. would have united had she been at home I remain your affectionate Uncle,

RICHD COCKIN.

(D. Portfolio 39. 116.)

X

Doncaster 7th of 4th Mo. 1828.

MY DEAR FRIENDS AND RELATIVES SYLVANUS & MARY FOX,

. . . As I apprehend you continue to retain an interest in what is passing in this quarter, that affects our Society, I will indeavour to recolect such occurances as will either afford you a pleasureable satisfaction, or, a little agreeable information. I was at ACKWORTH last week attending a

Sub-Committee ; the Family at the School were well ; it has been a remarkable healthy time there for six months past, not one Child has been Ill during that time, and but very few, from any cause, have had occasion to be confined in the Nursery. JAMES HARRISON continues very much of an Invalid, he has only been at Meeting two or three times for the last 6 months—his recovery appears doubtful. ROBERT & HANNAH WHITAKER are very finily.

We have had an unusual number of Ministers recorded within the compass of our Quarterly Meeting, within the last four years. I will endeavour to recollect the names of those who have been recorded in that time : in York Mo. Meeting James Backhouse and Samuel Tuke ; in Balby Thos. Yeardley (brother to John) and Lydia Hargreaves ; in Pontefract James Wetherald, James Harrison, and John Nevins ; in Brighouse Benjamin Seebohm, Thomas Walker of Leeds and Maria Arthington ; in Settle Deborah Wilson ; in Pickering Richd. Foster of Scarbro', and Ann Priestman of Malton ; and in Guisbro' Fransis Dixon ; And what renders it still more extradinary is, so great a proportion should be men.

I apprehend you have been informed that ISAAC STEPHENSON is now engaged in paying a visit to the work people of each Mill, or Factory in Manchester, which is more then one Hundred ; he has paid upwards of sixty of those visits—many of them, has been memorable seasons.

I lately had a long and very interesting letter from DANIEL WHEELER ; he, and Children were well ; his Wife had been Ill but was some better : he has no present prospect of returning—he appears to be preserved alive in the best things. At our last Mo. Meeting we had a very weighty communication from him addressed to the Mo. Meeting, which was also read at our Quarterly Meeting and which produced a solemnizing effect.

I remain, your nearly attached Uncle,

RICHD COCKIN.

(D. Portfolio 39. 114.)

“ Aug. 22. 1799. Died Mrs. [Hester] Frank, wife of Arnee Frank, Ironmonger [Bristol]. Her remains interred 26th Aug. at the Fryers. Poor Arnee Frank fainted away in the burying ground at the time of Interment.”—WILLIAM DYER, *Diary*.



Design by E. Brockbank, R.M.S.

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THE PORCH, YEALAND FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE, 1692

From E. Brockbank's "Richard Hubberthorne of Yealand"
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