

## Thomas Shillitoe's Interview with William the Fourth and his Queen

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10th month 4th, 1832.

Last 5th day week our valued Friend Thomas Shillitoe, accompanied by Peter Bedford, had an interview with the King and his royal consort. The dear old Friend's chief concern was to present an address, which he had just had printed, to the King and his Ministers, calling upon them to do their part towards averting a great national calamity, by turning their energies towards establishing, if possible, greater morality, greater attention to serious subjects than has been the case. It is a very plainly written work and dear Thomas told the Friends to whom he submitted it for inspection: "There must be no lowering it as with water, that it must be all pure brandy." The interview with the King was private; all left the apartment but these three individuals, the King, T. Shillitoe and P. Bedford. After a short time the King sat silent, evidently waiting for what T. S. might have to impart, and after this had been accomplished, they entered into pleasant familiar conversation for twenty minutes, all kingly state appearing set aside. They then visited the Queen who received them also very pleasantly, only Herbert Taylor and the lady in waiting being present. This appears to have been a highly interesting interview, and on parting, T. S. remarked: "The Queen is aware that we do not pass compliments, but when we are desirous of expressing our kindly feelings we do so by a shake of the hand." The Queen instantly drew off her glove, and exclaimed with much energy: "You shall have mine"; and T. S. afterwards remarked: "It was no genteel shake of the hand, but a good old-fashioned squeeze." He was highly gratified with his visit, and says that he could not wish one event to have occurred otherwise than it did, and that he had found much greater readiness in the Palace to receive what he had to offer, than he had in many Friends' families.