

# John Woolman to Catherine Payton, 1755

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Belovd Friend } I thought I wanted Some more Conversa-  
C. Payton } tion with thee than I had Oportunity for—

Haveing been at Sundry Meetings with thee I perceiue that he who waits to be gracious to Us has given thee among others a distinct Sight of the State of the Churches—To him only I am thankfull for it—And from a warm desire that thy Clearness of understanding may be Continued—Mising other means take this, to remind thee of what thou well knowest—That where the Divine hand Bestows Liberally Deep Reverence is more abundantly Necess'y.

And if thou keepest Near Enough the Centre of Humility, I think I see y<sup>t</sup> a blessing to Us will Ensue.—

In much haste & True Love,

I am thy frd, JOHN WOOLMAN.

25.2mo. 55.

Age only dont give firmness yet Youth in general is most unsteady.—J.W.

Catherine Payton became Catherine Phillips (1727-1794), and a very prominent Minister. See *Jnl. F.H.S.* v.y., esp. 1919; Jenkins, *Records*.

From the autograph letter in **D** (Portfolio 42.18), presented by Olivia and Stella Lloyd Fox, of Rosehill, Falmouth.

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“ When visiting at the house of a Philadelphia Elder, Samuel Bettle [1774-1861], a young man took occasion to advise him of the worldliness noticed in the use of silver forks in place of the old-fashioned, two-tined implement which had been generally used for many years, and was considered sufficient by many even then. The young man remarked that John Woolman would not have used silver forks. His host quickly replied : ‘ There are many imitators of John Woolman, there was but one original.’ ”

Taken from *Recollections of Lydia S. (Mitchell) Hinchman*, 1929, p. 30.