

John Woolman to John Townsend

“ beloved friend John Townsend, if any letter comes to thy hand directed to me, I desire thou may open it in private, and Shew it to no one, and if thou believes it to be of a nature greatly requiring haste, then send it by the post, else keep it till other oportunity of conveyance thy loving friend

JOHN WOOLMAN

“ I am now at baldock near as well as when I left London 19 day 6 mo. 1772.

“ Joseph Roe is desired to give this to John Townsend.”

From the Martha Spriggs Collection, written on a narrow piece of paper.

London Yearly Meeting, 1859

Extract from a private letter of a young Friend attending Yearly Meeting, 5 mo., 1859 :

“ As intended I went up to London last fourth day morning and attended the meeting for worship at Devonshire House, it was a very large one, Susan Howland and William Matthews spoke, the latter to some length, an impressive sermon, several others spoke briefly, all of whom I did not know. I believe it was a very good meeting. After meeting was over I proceeded to the London Tavern to be at the temperance gathering called for half-past twelve. . . . We were unfortunately late and found all the seats occupied ; after a little exercise of patience fresh tables and chairs were procured and we managed to get our dinner ; there were some that came in later still who had to dine at a sideboard standing, some of the fair too. The cause of this inconvenience was a larger number of Friends assembled than was anticipated, so far very encouraging to those who were the promoters of the meeting. After the tables were cleared away we drew closer together to hear the addresses, Edwd Smith, Saml Bowly, Thos Smithies, with some few others, and last of all Gough addressed the meeting well. It was quite apparent an increased interest was manifested in the cause of temperance which was very gratifying.”

Contributed by Samuel Graveson.