

The Howarth Collection of MSS.

This collection of autographs, MSS. and portraits has been placed on permanent loan (MS. Box 7. 11, 12, 13) in the Library at Friends House by E. Harold Marsh of Tunbridge Wells. It is thought this may be a part of a larger collection. We should welcome any information regarding another set of Howarth MSS. The principal items of interest in the collection are described below.

No. 2. John Archdale (*d.* 1707) to the Speaker of the House of Commons. London, 3 Jan. 1698/9.

Explains his non-appearance in the House is due to uncertainty as to whether his declaration in lieu of oath will be accepted by the House, in whose decision he is ready to acquiesce. Endorsed :—" 1698 Mr. Archdale's Letter to the Speaker."

Printed in *Journals of the House of Commons*, xii., 386, and in *Bulletin Friends Historical Society*, Philadelphia, vii. (1916), 74. It is uncertain whether this MS. is the letter delivered to the Speaker, or the writer's own "office" copy. John Archdale was not permitted to take his seat. He was governor of North Carolina, 1695-7, and published *A Description of Carolina*, 1707. He died in 1707. (*Dictionary of National Biography*.)

No. 5. John Bartram to a friend. [Philadelphia?] 10 Nov. 1750.

Mentions Adolf Benrel, Peter Collinson and the writer's *Journal to the Six Nations of Indians*.

John Bartram (1699-1777) was born in Pennsylvania. An early American naturalist, he corresponded with Collinson, Fothergill, Linnaeus, Franklin. The seeds and plants he sent to Collinson were the means of introducing many American species into England. (Darlington: *Memorials of Bartram and Marshall*; Fox: *John Fothergill*; Brett-James: *Peter Collinson*.)

No. 9. Thomas Fowell Buxton to G. M. Greenwood of Darlington. London, 31 Aug. 1820.

Asks for as many petitions as possible, particularly one from those who helped to save Wolfe and Eden.

Evidently part of the campaign to limit the use of capital punishment. T. F. Buxton (1786-1845) was not a member of the Society, but *m.* Hannah Gurney of Earlham 1807, entered Parliament 1820 and succeeded Wilberforce as leader of the anti-slavery cause; advocated abolition of lotteries, and prohibition of *suttee* in India.

No. 9B. Thomas Camm to Daniel Abraham [c. 169-].

My love to M.F. She should in right answer me. That money I have bene too long out of it. I am very unwilling to make it publike or take it of B. Coole (wch he has offered :) least it be more publicly expressed by him wch cannot but prove a reflection upon the dead that I had a true esteeme for. Perhaps she has write (or thou for her) to James Fell about it because I heard her speaking of it when I was wth her to see if Reb Shaw would doe anything in it. However I desire thee to reminde her of it And I would not have her to forgitt nor delay to answer for I believe she ought to pay it and that it was her husbands Just debt. Tho Cam [Addressed] For Daniell Abrams att Swarthmore These.

Thomas Camm (1641-1707) of Camsgill near Kendal, a minister, was the son of John Camm, one of the "First Publishers of Truth". He published many tracts and was present when Fox preached at Preston Patrick Chapel in 1652. (Evans: *Friends' Library*, i.; *F.P.T.*)

No. 10. Thomas Clarkson (1760-1846) to John Gibson of Whitehaven. London, 29 Jun. 1824.

Anti-slavery activities. Compliments Cumberland on presenting 18 petitions, during the past year; equalled by Suffolk, which has three committees. With England well covered, plans a tour of all the counties of Wales, then Scotland where he hopes to set up 12 or 14 committees. Will return through Yorks, which needs 6, 7, or 8 committees instead of only 3. "Then I think our strength will be respectable throughout the kingdom."

No. 15. John Fothergill (1712-1780) to [Rev. Henry Zouch?].

London, 24th.i.1780.

My worthy Friend,

It was very obliging to send me so early an account of the transactions at York—and as they have been so generally followed by all the petitioning countys, it is a strong presumption that thy Petition from York, spoke the general sense of the other countys.

I could have wished the petitions had spoke a language, which would have become universal—I imagine the petitioners will at present find themselves in the minority and that they will all be treated with pity by some, contempt by others, and that they will only tend to confirm the wavering in an opinion that it is safest for them to adhere to the majority. I do not say that what I suggested would have had any better effect—but taking the matter up on a broad foundation, and not provoking any set of men to become your inveterate opposers you might have had a fairer chance of appearing with the book of numbers on your side—As it is, you will be wholly discomfited—and your efforts to make any impression for publick good, I am afraid will be rendered ineffectual. You will not on

the ground you have chosen be generally followed, and if you are not you have done nothing ; but have discouraged future attempts for the relief of this unhappy country.

I am persuaded that the true state of the nation has not been fully made known where it ought to be and if now and then an instance of the ruinous effects of the present measures have stolen into the knowledge of our superiors Instances of the contrary have been supplied in such a manner as to give the balance strongly in favour of the governing system. A general declaration of the distress that attended each petitioning county—I do not mean all the facts that could be collected, but facts sufficient to demonstrate that ruin was advancing indisputably—this one point ought to have been generally incontestably established—and perhaps in this case, as all the countys feel the like in some degree, all would have joined in the complaint—nor could M[inis]try have had assurance to deny it, or impute the known, universal sufferings of the people to the management of Faction. But it is now too late and I ought to think the measures taken are the wisest and the best, but I could not omit suggesting my sentiments on the subject.

And now pray what is to be the object of your associations. What effect can your correspondence have in this business—Not I hope to whet one another into a civil war—For of all human evils this perhaps is the worst. And it is much if by all your endeavours to put a majority of the county in motion, if I may use the expression, I mean to urge them to prefer petitions. If not where are you ?—Friends to publick liberty, but without power to maintain it—you may indeed have much deeper and wiser views than I can pretend to. But I should have avoided as much as possible running my head against a wall, or which was much the same thing, asking for that which you knew never would be granted—nor which was there a probability of your obtaining thro' fear of a refusal—Threats without power are very harmless shafts—and though your county and some others may outnumbering of the lesser countys in respect to men and fortune—but the non-petitioners are too many and too formidable, to make you think it would be wise at any time, to attempt to compel them to follow your example. I must beg my Friend will be kind enough to remember that I am *only* expressing my opinions to himself ; to one who will excuse my weakness, because I hope he is convinced that I speak what I think to him, and him *only* with the utmost confidence. It afforded me much satisfaction to observe that everything had proceeded with general unanimity, and much moderation—I sincerely wish that much publick benefit may result from it—I hope it will—If M[inis]try act in future more prudently, in order to give less occasion for such complaints, you are the cause of it—If in the hour of triumph they affect to treat the petitioners with contempt, and grow more lavish, they will increase the numbers of those who lament the publick waste, and who wish to bring them to an account for it. But I am much afraid the head is sick and no wonder then that the body is disordered.

I am pleased to find thy health is [so] much established as to have been able to endure so much difficulty without suffering.

I commit the care of this to one of my friends who is going to Ackworth where we have made a beginning and I hope not an unprosperous one—there are I believe about 60 children collected in the space of a very few months.

Accept my best wishes and believe me to be thy much obliged and affectionate Friend

J. Fothergill.

This letter is probably addressed to the Rev. Henry Zouch, vicar of Sandal, Yorks, and evidently relates to the meeting of Yorkshire freeholders, held at York on 30th Dec., 1779, when the Yorkshire Association was formed and a petition for parliamentary and administrative reform adopted, which was presented to Parliament on 8th Feb., 1780, by Sir George Savile. This, the first of nearly thirty county associations, began the movement which bore its fruit fifty years later in the Reform Act of 1832. A letter to Zouch dated 8.x.1779 is printed in J. Fothergill: *Works* (1783-4), III, clxix., and *An English Freeholder's Address to his Countrymen* in *Works*, III, 29-57. In *D.N.B.* the latter is attributed to Rev. H. Zouch. Fothergill believed more good would come of making peace with America than of petitioning for reforms. See *Works* and also R. Hingston Fox: *John Fothergill and his Friends*, 356ff.

No. 16. George Fox. Fragment of a Hebrew exercise.

Ten Hebrew words in English script, with English translation of each.

Two other fragments of the same kind are in MSS. Port. 36.175, and another in Stowe MSS. in the British Museum. See Brayshaw: *Personality of George Fox*; *Jnl. F.H.S.* vi., xv., xix., xxviii.

No. 17. Elizabeth Fry. Autograph signature on a printed pass.

Admit the Bearer to the Female side of Newgate at half past Ten on the 6th Instant. *Elizth Fry.* No date.

This and a similar pass, handwritten on vellum, also in the Library, indicate the authority accorded to Elizabeth Fry although she held no official position.

No. 23. Mary Knowles (1733-1807). Thirty-four lines addressed to Ann Blakes junior. 1800.

. . . 'Tis ordered that we ancient Tabbies,
By all the Monthly Meeting Rabbies,
That we shou'd keep our gay young people,
From ev'ry house that has a steeple,
Or building popish or Socinian,
Or any not of our opinion.
So am I not in duty bound,
To warn thee, of this dang'rous ground,
Which little Tetty longs to tread? . . .

K.

Mary Knowles (1733-1807); née Morris, (*m.* Dr. Thomas Knowles 1767,) is best known for her spirited dialogue with Dr. Johnson over the conversion of a young woman of his acquaintance from the Church of England to Quakerism. She was a ready writer of verses, also published several pamphlets. MSS., Friends House; *Gentleman's Magazine*, 1791; *Biographical Catalogue of Portraits*.

No. 24. John Coakley Lettsom to Mr. Brown. Sambrook Court. 15 May, 1815.

Informing him of meetings appointed by Mary Dudley at Grove House, Camberwell, "for the World's people", and at Gracechurch Street "both for the world's people and Friends". He has heard her "with admiration both for matter and manner".

Lettsom was born in West Indies in 1744. He succeeded to John Fothergill's practice and became the most successful physician in London; *d.* 1815. J. J. Abraham: *Lettsom*.

No. 32. Thomas Wilkinson to John Hewitson in Appleby Jail. Yanwath, 23.vii.1823.

After acknowledging a letter, continues:—" . . . Thou hast my Pity and Forgiveness, but I can do little more. When sentence of Death was passed I petitioned the Judge as earnestly as I was able that the sentence might not be executed, and I had his Assurance that thy Life should be spared. I can meddle no more; and it appears to me that to be removed from a country where thou could never be received with Respect will be the greatest Relief to thy Tryals. Thou wilt still be among thy Fellow Creatures and thy Abilities as a Husband Man may turn to their Advantage and thy own. . . . Remember there is a Futurity. . . . Yet do not Dispare, there is a Heaven for those who Cultivate Dispositions on Earth fit to enjoy it . . . tho' we may be parted in this Life, through innocent Watchfulness we may be happy together hereafter. . . ."

Thomas Wilkinson of Yanwath, Cumberland (1751-1836) was a farmer, nature lover and writer of prose and poetry. *Tours to the British Mountains*, 1824, made him well known. He numbered Wordsworth in his wide circle of friends, travelled widely in England, Wales and Scotland in the service of the Society and was a keen anti-slavery worker. *Friends' Quarterly Examiner*, 1882, 1893; M. Carr: *Thomas Wilkinson*, 1905.