

Two Letters from Charles Booth

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19 Jan 1874

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f.1r

Brushes.
near Sheffield.

19. Jan. 1874.

My dear Galton

I should be very glad to be of the smallest service to you. Just now, I am starting on a journey to Iton with a son of mine; and have only time to acknowledge the receipt of your letter; but on my return, in three days, I will put together anything that is likely to serve your purpose.

The old house was full of account-books: every thing that happened had its set of books:

There was nothing for
it but reckless destruction,
and the bulk of all
these books and papers
was burnt when I
had to go through the
task of arranging the
house: but I think
I preserved a few
specimens, such as they
are, of this devotion
to Method. The moment
I have any time I
will scrape them together,
and let you have them,
whatever they may be
worth.

The Epitaph you
sent me is a really
good one, and just what
an Epitaph of the kind

ought to be. I cannot
help thinking that
I have read something
like it before: but
I cannot remember
where. I am not a
collector of Epitaphs
however; though I
think that some man
of my name has published
a collection of them.
Thank you all the
same for this one -
Yours very truly A. Booth.



tree was labelled. The following is one of half a dozen or more cash-boxes, small neat iron safes;— on the top is painted "Settlement", (the cash inside being thus ear-marked as the proceeds of the settled property,) and within upon separate compartments "Notes & Gold" "Small Silver" "Large Silver" "Copper pence" "Copper halfpence". Had my Aunt by any chance come across any farthings she would certainly have ordered new cash-boxes with a sixth compartment, lest a farthing from ^{1 amp} one source



Brushes.
near Sheffield.

28 Jan. 1874

My dear Galton
I have inspected a batch of books of which I had left undestroyed because they had reference to my Uncle's property, that is, to one department of my Aunt's affairs. Numbers more were destroyed, along with a mass of indescribable machinery, which filled my Aunt's Boudoir as it was called, all connected with pens ink and paper. The Trinitarian inkstand of red black and blue inks for red black & blue subjects provided

in the centre of a
methodical bazaar
of pen holders pen wipers
and every conceivable
or inconceivable apparatus
for writing, including
envelopes stamped and
printed with the addresses
of the various banks (at
least three) and other
business correspondents.

I am not very well and
rather occupied, and
have thought it best
to send the batch aforesaid
to you by train in
a small deal box. It
is only a specimen;
but sufficiently multifarious

to baffle my power
of description at
present. I hope it
does not come too late.

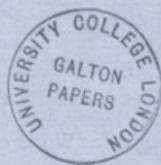
The crockery ware of
the store room and
housekeeper's room
was all lettered; (not
the bedroom;) but
the coal pans in the
bedrooms and other
metal affairs were
duly labelled, as were
all the garden tools and
the peps upon which
they hung. I have counted
100 painted labels in
a flower-bed about 12 feet
square. Every plant and



In my present state
of health I am not very
well able to help you
to exactly what you
want: but I have
done my best.

Yours very truly
Charles Booth

P.S. Do not trouble
yourself to return
the books & papers:
but I should be
glad to hear of
their arrival if
they are not too
late -



Wrasnes.
near Sheffield.



f3r

should find itself in
the wrong box.

The apparatus for the
instruction (in the way
of tracts) & relief of
the poor was most
minutely and elaborately
perculated out in some
papers made for the
purpose. Boxes of tea,
sugar, worsted stockings,
bundles for ladies in
confinement &c &c, in
separate drawers, and
all the records of all
transactions thereto
appertaining.

You will notice the
Flower & Butterfly

register: and the
labelled blotting paper.

Remember finding
a list of questions to
be put at certain
times to the groom-and-
coachman, which was
very funny: "Has the
mare had her corn?
2. Has the horse had his?"
— and the like —

A large iron chest,
burglar-proof, was
set apart for me; to
contain such a proportion
of her savings as might
be deemed to arise from
this small property,
with the rent-books &c.
Savings there were none

to speak of; only
a few shillings; but
there was a prodigious
quantity of blotting-paper
as if to dry any
tears which I might
shed in consequence —
But I knew very well
that my Aunt was no
fool; and it will be
a satisfaction to me if
the blotting-paper assists
the cause of ^{science} ~~of~~ ^{think} ~~the~~ ^{it} —

I should ^{think} it would be
difficult to lecture on
a propensity for tabulation
as a transmitted
peculiarity, without
our thoughts running
upon Tristram Shandy.

about 1840
M-Book

Francis Galton Esq
42 Rutland Gate
London S.W.



1840

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