Southern Counties Asylum Case Book vol. 11 Enclosures

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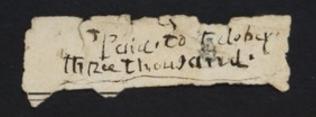
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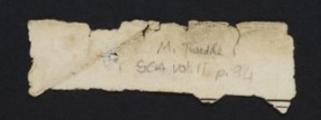
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SOUTHERN COUNTIES' ASYLUM

DUMFRIES

De Adam, Sir, It is with a painful feeling, yet compelled through uncourteous treatment which has caused me to write to you. Now, sir, I have been more than ten years in this large institution. Sometimes I think my sufferings has been unpresidented, which I have suffered through alarming fear which I had no control over, and has often been engulphed into awful terror, to which the pen cannot describe. But come to the point, to which has caused me to write. Sir, these three years past its out of my power to relate all that I have suffered through the effects of, I may safely say, from barbarous treatment by a neighbour patient. I was about seven years in the bonolly gallery. I do not think that there were twenty unpleasant words passed betwiet me and any of the patients in that gallery. I got transferred into the special gallery, but I was not long there till that man Jackson, whon at our meal table I had occasion to rise before the signal was given to rise. I was unmannerly called in question. If I was in the fault, it became the attendants place, and not a patient. It never can go well with one who is on the same footing as oneself. That was the first of too many childish actions . Often my hat was put out of its

place for me to search for, for the very end knowing that it would put me about; though I could not prove it yet I am convened that no one in the gallery would be quilty of such annually conduct. And what I am Suffering now and again from his cold, iron heart, through his cruel treatment, too often has driven me to dispair. But in the midst of my despair, mark I do not let him have it all his own way, without telling him really what he is in few words - a lickspittle, a spy, a talebearer, to which has a tendoncy to stir up stipe, to which he appears to glory in, but at the same time done for favour. Before finishing my letter I will make it appear that he is a low thick, and one of the lowest grade, to which I have suffered to my cost. He was the one that attended to the making of my led, and in below the bed mattress there where I kapt my written treasures, I began to suspect and to see that there were something going wrong with my letters. Iwo of them went away, one of them was returned all soiled and abused, to which was a letter that I would not have given to every friend to read which galled me to the quick. But the returning of that letter made it clear to me who was the robber of my letters, because that night before the letter was returned, he was left alone I suppose writing in his own bedroom, but had accoses into all the bedrooms, therefore I think that was a substantial proof that he Jackson was the man, get I will give you another proof which was the most-galling of any. Some of the words in my letter he were as weapons to wound me, and done at the public meal table.

Words could not be found to convey to you the anguish of mind that I suffered at that time, which added greatly to my montal sufferings that has hung so long upon me. For three nights I searcely over closed an eye. He being on inmate in the asylum he appears to take the advantage of it as a protection for him for giving that one and the other one cruel abuse to which I have been an experiences to his unfeeling conduct. I wo men in particular which I could name with myself without giving him any prowests. ation whatever, apparantly for no end whatever but to torment and feed his silly selfesteem, no doubt expects ing a smile of approbation sometimes done at a very dear cost from the sufferer, but it appears to be richly remunerated to feast and to glut his sordied feelings. one of those men is William Grierson, now about five years in the institution, and pom about that time now and again suffers from his cruel, unmanly, childish actions. I wrote to Dr Munro I very bug, plain letter, telling him of the low uncourtesy that I often was receiving from the hand of Sackson without giving him any provocation, also made substantial evidence clear, according to the criminal code can punish Di Munro called him up and accused him if he was guilty of what I had accused him of in my letter. Not guilty, and denied of ever taking my of my letters, to which was to be expected. We are aware that the thing is always read, to plead his innocence with a batch of lies.

Though then he got clear off, but it does not appear to have changed his inveterate spirit. It is now two years past since he robbed my bed of my letters. Very few days passes since then without him interfering with mo, or cut ting my feelings with uncourteous, litter sayings. My neighbour, Mr. Thomson, he treats him no better than an American slave owner would have tret his slave. If so be. that he had the power, I would not be overrating his tyranny, and would not be wick naming him when passing him off as a Legree in the Southern Counties. Though his name is Jackson yet possessed of all the bad qualifications of a slave driver. You may think that I am too hard whom him , but no , not many days prosed which has caused me to write to you, I never had expected to have renewed an old sore, but had to be done to let you see that his unfrincipled conduct is not of yesterday but has been practised for years. Since he came up stares from the Cross to which I think was the most suitable place in the institution for one of his stamps. But to turn to the most distressing part of your letter, in our too many broils, but mark to which he is always the first to offend, making me his bugbear to show off to others at my painful expense which causes me to tell him in very few plain words what he is. Through the course of our broils in derivion shooting but his tongue, and roars of assumed laughter, clapping. his hands on his bottom, to which a schoolboy would be ashamed to do. But Dr., these actions are not the worst, he again has skulked into my bedroom, got his haggard fingers across one letter especially without shaws to his disgrace. In that letter using my own words as a weapon to would to go desper into the heart and done in public. He knows right well that he

is so far protected from punishment when in the asylum, and has a parole to go out and in at the gate at pleasure. Then he cannot be altogether considered to be insane, therefore I think which should make him the more deserving of punishment. What pleasure would it give me for the law to be put into force? Nevertheless there is a necessity- the law is for the lawless and disolediant, though in the asylum it would let him see he had no right to tyranise over this one and the other one without running the risk of being purished. When I wrote to D'ellumo, I think about two years since, about his barbarous conduct, it appeared that nothing could be done with regard to punishment. Even though he denied it, I think Dr Munro would have his own suspicion, and there is little doubt but what Dr. Munro would admonish him not to step beyond the bounds of decency for the time coming. Doctor, there are times when this affliction is almost insufficitable and to add to it, as I have been often tret by that man, is the height of cruelty. I may have tried to bear up with his childish opleen without writing either to you, Dr. Adam, or to Dr. Munro, if he only

had kept by the thousand insults I have received from him, but sir, how could I pass such heartless treatment without reporting, now have done to both Doctors, of him spulying my letters, and publicly making sport of my words that were used in that letter, which proved him to be a dastardly hardened scoundrel. One quilty of such conduct outside of the walls would pay dearly for their folly. How sweet it tello upon melancholly when a little sympathy is shown. It softens the heart, and from the heart to where? to the little fountain who conceals & the tears, lets a drop give way as a token of a tender heart. If otherwise shown, it has a tendency to thicken the gloom. What I see daily, and have experienced from him, when you charge him with the crime laid & to his charge, with the abmost confidence, as an old hardened offenders ranged at the har, pleading his pretended innocence, and doing his utmost to blacken me. I can conscienciously say, my banner is to live at peace and be courteous to all, I remain, yours most respectfully, Dovid Frombull Hoping for the time coming I never will have to write another lines on such an impleasant subject Suppose the case had been outside of the & wall, I would have given him into the hands of the law, and then I think he would not have

De Adam, Sir, I intended to have given you your letter before this time, but for the want of moral courage always put it of. Now the man is away to whom I have referred to in your letter, not expecting that he should have gone away at this time, nevertheless I have sent you the letter to let you see what I have suffered from one not altogether insane, to which if he had been then I had no reason to make a complaint, though in general unmanneasy he always made it his study to chilne in with the

attendants, therefore his unmerciful conduct to me was winked at.



David Tumbull Scia vol. 11 p.98, -Dari/6/21/2/11a