

Papers relating to Margaret Knight

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Albany, York 13 June 1864

My dear Friend,

If I understood right I have wished
me to write a note to remind thee to
order the Phonographic casket for me
& it seems rather a trifling subject to write
about without adding something else
so must consider whether there ^{are} any
other matters ^{about} which I should like to con-
verse with thee — not converse tho' for
as thou dost not consider my letters
deserving of a reply that is not a
correct word. I see a notice in
my Manual that a supplement to
10th edition containing improvements of
11th is to be had gratis. —

I suppose thou art aware that
I have not taken any medicine for
a long time. It would be very
kind if thou wouldst let me have
some Hot Yonica & Kelladonna to take

alternately & if I had charge on any medicine that is ordered for me it would I expect be taken with much more regularity than if the nurses have it. They seldom remember such things at the right time & sometimes when I used to think of it they were not at liberty to get it. —

Some weeks since a pair of worked cuffs of mine were given out to be washed with my collars & I never saw them again. I mentioned it at the time they were missed & when a week or two passed told the Mr! & Miss B! —

I think when such things are missed there should be a search made for them as these little things are washed in the gallery — They were new cuffs not

having been washed more than once previously.

The statement wth some folks made that I brought no white skirt here & had none sent with my first parcel of clothes is not to be depended upon as many of my things were not marked when they came here as Miss Bodd's knows & it is not likely they were all entered on the list.

There is an old night-gown now in the saloon wh^{ch} has a ^{tape} mark sewn on bearing my name. I knew the article was not mine & upon examining the mark found it was sewn over initials J. S. The tape mark is I believe one that was on my fur & I can only suppose the nightgown to have been substituted for a good one of mine. I am not stingy but do dislike these sort of things exceedingly. — My opinion of

our under attendant Ellen Anderson
is a very upright conscientious &
industrious young woman & much
more particular than some abt
adhering to rules when she knows
what they are. She remarked once
that it was strange you have no
written or printed rules here as in
some instances she has not known
what ought to be done. —

I suppose it was such remarks
as these that caused thee to intimate
to me once that I professed to have
good judgment but it is impossible
for thee to know ^{correctly} from hearsay some
things wh I do who am a constant
observer & eye witness. — As thou
dost not like crossed letters suppose
this is long enough so with love
I am Thy affec Margaret

Reigate 31/1/13 -

My Dear Sister.

I received your kind letter for which I am very much obliged. Your letter came a few days before time last Sunday was my birthday & I was then 20. I still keep on the night work but not the day duty as Smith has been home for some time now & he does that it gives me more time up in the shop for which I am very glad. as I am far from perfect in my trade I am glad.

You enjoyed the celebration of the New Year. We had a Holiday on Thursday. but not on New Years day. We look forward to Good Friday as a holiday they are the only two Public Holidays we have. We have had some interesting lectures at the Reigate Mechanics Institute we don't have very many but what we have are generally good ones -

Do you ever see Uncle Charles. it is many
years since I saw him & I should not know
him again if I saw him Uncle Harry is
not at well again. Leggie hears from Cousin
Arthur some times. Thomson is to be
married soon I hear. I think his wife is
not a friend Grand Ma! has not been
very well lately but as soon as the
weather gets warmer we hope she
will get better & look more like
she used to

Aunt West woad has got another little
girl. Aunt is pretty well except she does a
bad cold Have you heard from Sister
Lucy lately. I am afraid you will think
me a very hard hand at writing letters
Uncle is well & Levee Hall is also well
& the baby he is a fine little fellow.

I think I must now conclude with our
kind love to you leaving us all pretty well
wishing you better health Believe me to
remain your

affectionate Brother

Edwin Knight

To Margaret Knight

Regate 37/6/64

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3/7/18

McKnight

Dr. Kitching





The Retreat

6th July. 28/4/74.

Dear Friend

D. Kitching,

After a sleepless night but a very peaceful one I feel inclined to tell thee two or three facts of my past history — such things as my earthly father would have told me to talk about & not write but I am seeking for my Heavenly Father's guidance & he has at several different periods of my life pointed me to those who have helped me as earthly parents when I have needed them. My Mother died when I was 3 yrs & 9 months old & when my father's second wife had been dead a short time he found she had deceived him about me & said "Margaret she has been no mother to you".

His present wife has always been
far worse but he has to blame
himself for some of his troubles with
her as he deceived her about his
business. He was carrying on what
all thought to be a very flourishing
one & failed very soon after marrying
her. He had expected £1000 of
hers to set him right but the day
before they were married she took my
father's brother & his most intimate
friend as kinsmen & had the money
settled on herself. An Aunt of
mine told me that my father was
an entirely different man with each
wife & I am so thankful to remem-
ber that no one has ever said
a word against my mother & very
many have spoken of her to me &

been
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less with
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sister Lucy in the highest terms
while all we ever saw of her writ-
ting was such as to ensure respect
& something more when we consider
that nothing objectionable or trifling
is left by her.

But I began this to tell thee that
I have often thought it would be
well to have a little talk with
thee about a few words I said
to thee when the re-action came
in my disease 10 years ago & thou
asked me what had brought me
here but feared to press the sub-
ject lest it were not thy business
so to do. I replied thou hadst
a perfect right to do so or ask any
question on account (I meant) of
thy patient perseverance with me
when I knew how trying I had been.

But the answer to thy question
was that "want of food had brought
me" & thou supposed that to be
only a proof that I was still
insane but it needed very little
explaining to show that was
probably the principal cause of
my being unable to bear in a
very weak body trials which I
did not wish to acquaint any
fellow creature with & had not
then learned to take thro' my dear
Redeemer to our Father in Heaven.
I had been managing a little
business for my husband which
he had started & would have left
to a young man utterly unfit

to be trusted as he would have
been with £600 to £800 worth
of our goods. It had been car-
ried on by me a few months &
had paid yielding a profit.
My Lewis had started it against
my wish so far as I had expressed
it tho' if I had been very decided
against it that might have altered
the matter. He had intended
if it answered to give up the large
Manchester business & go to the
smaller but I saw difficulties &
was sure he would not like it.
We were accustomed to reckon all
expenses together both there & in
Manchester & when at the large
business with all his money going

thro' my hands it was my own
wish to take not a penny for
expenses that was not entered but
there are many details of this
kind that could be best talked
over.

When about to be married
Lewis told me plainly that he
was sometimes behind in his pay-
ments & I thought it likely I could
be of use to him having been
trained to economy & book-keeping
rather a funny way of expressing
what I was taught but it means
a great deal & is strictly true.
But it is breakfast time so a
little more some other quiet time
from Thy respectful patient
Margaret Knight

York Retreat 9 Mar. 1864

My dear Friend,

I find my statement about the medicine is disputed.

The dispenser can tell nothing about it as Mr. Dean does not measure the doses & I sometimes have more than others. I had a dose on Sunday morning & no more till near tea-time next day.

Then I had 3 doses that evening in order to get my bowels moved but was not properly relieved till 3rd day evening (yesterday). Now I am again without & have no notion tho my head aches & is very hot.

May I write to Lewis for any or all of the enclosed articles? — I think thou

might be civil enough to
answer some of the numerous
queries contained in my letters
& notes to thee. —

The blister has relieved me
of some of my ailments somewhat
& I have slept better the last
3 nights than sometimes but
think a boil is coming in
my neck in consequence thereof.

A Dr. once told me not to
use diaculum, linseed meal
or meal poultices ~~or~~ anything
of a drawing ^{or heating} nature when I
had boils or whitlows as he said
they would cause me to have
more such-like things my flesh
being easily drawn. —

Is the g in gynec pronounced
hard or soft? Supper speaks

of "The gyves of fate" & I met
with gyve in Scott's poems. —

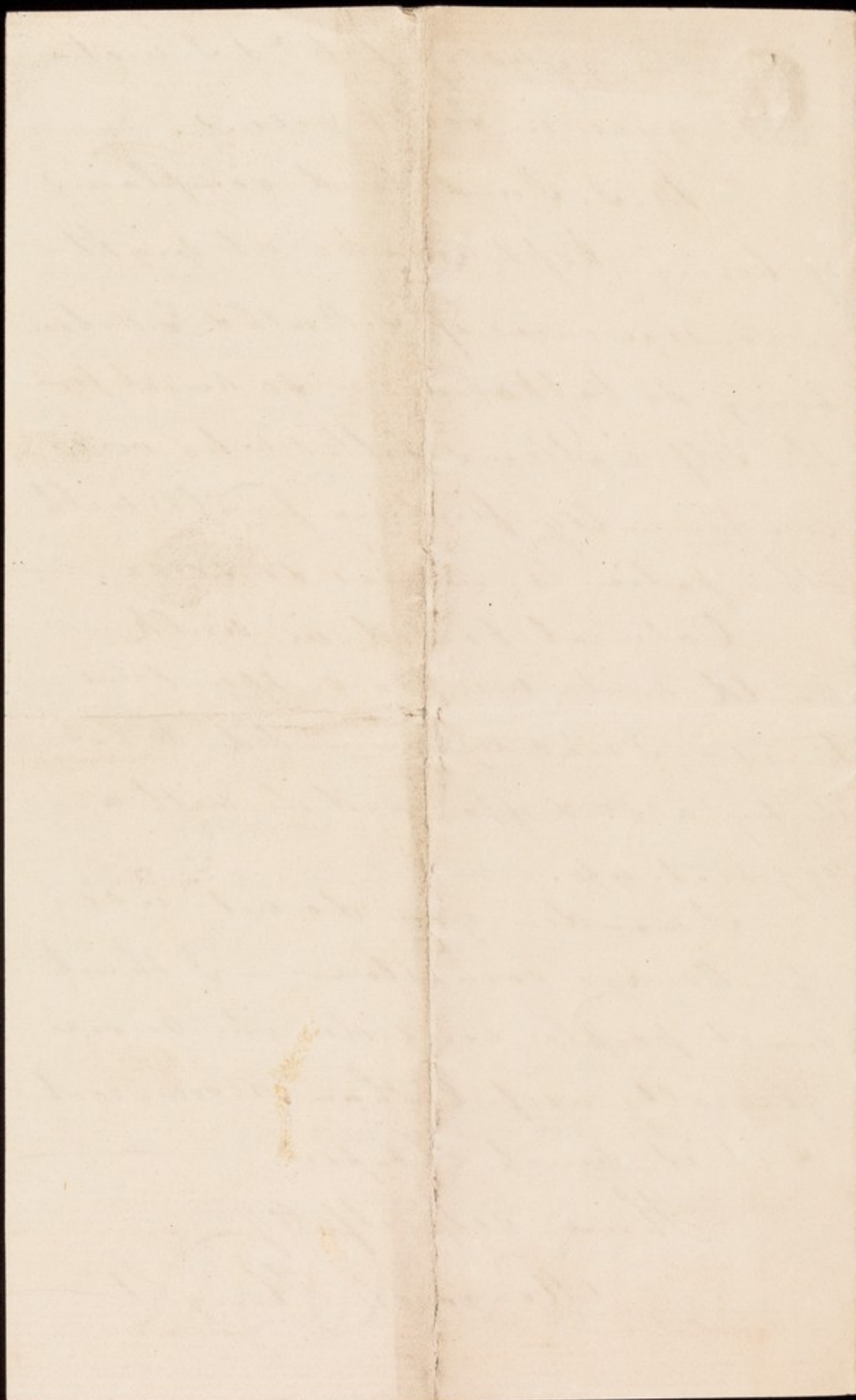
M. J. Sunderland complains
of being kept awake at night
in consequence of S. Booth & E. Watson
being so talkative — so much for
the self-righteous folks who are
continually finding fault with
other patients, nurses &c &c. —

Oatmeal boiled in milk
would suit me for supper some-
times — I was recommended to take
it by a Dr. & often had it with an
egg beat up. —

I wonder you do not use
the Oswego corn-flour — I think
most people consider it more
generally useful than arrow-root
& it is much cheaper. —

Thine respectfully

Margaret Knight



York Retreat 20th July 1864

[illegible]

accepting & expressed her intention
of coming. I then
looked up some of Mr. Dalton's
works to present her reading
them.

Mr. Lyman has lent
me the "Christian World" which
I prefer to any newspaper I
ever read. It has some very
beautiful poetry & prose by
Harriet Farnham.

I only read a little of the
"Geology" at a time as it con-
tains so much information that
I should not probably remember
what I have read. I did not
adopt that plan.

I have still
considerable stiffness & aching
in my limbs & am often feverish.
I should let me have
exercise alternately with regular

it would certainly be useful.
As the latter is medicinal or
vegetable medicine? When
used regularly it operates
very agreeably & effectually on
the bowels & relieves the flatulency
but the worst relation which
it has to proper business
remains here. When I have
had to do with some before
I had went to Ireland...
The instrument is not required
but I have promised it
to me & I stay after Dr Watson
& Mr. Addis had caused me to
be poorly & I never had it from
that day to this. I am
well & aware I have had the
much to do & I think of per-
forming it.

entirely at the women by
each of them to set up an
independent authority of
their own. They wife may
obey the commands but cer-
tainly opposes they wishes.
I ought to feel flattered for
the hard one day & case as
quick for the D. as I do for
thee" I am very subject to
a croupy hemorrhage in the
throat & when present often
leaves a relaxed sore throat
I think I have been told it
is swelling of the tonsils
internally. Some of the women
will assist me in pursuing my-
self of very trivial complaints
& troubles - I cannot even get a

Retreat 30/5/64

difficult to exercise self-control in these
times of great stress
My dear friend,
I will tell thee what Lewis said of me - it was
that I required to improve myself particularly with regard
to three things. But these are not habits I have acquired
here nor the consequences of an unsound mind as he
has observed. He said faults frequently. He wishes me
to walk more slowly & stately - to talk more deliberately -
to be gentle & thoughtful in conversation &
to avoid hurting the feelings of others.
He always tried to teach me to be ladylike & now that
I have not to give my attention to a rough & driving
life perhaps with by persevering effort I may improve.
The last mentioned fault is one mode of conduct is one
which as a Christian I ought to acquire & practice but it is more

Dr. K. K. K.

My dear friend,
I did not receive your letter
until the 10th inst. I did not
know what to say to you
at first. I am now making my black
dress & left some more taking like it at
Manchester which I should have made use
of if I had it - also a silk dress sui-
table for the season. I have sent
you the scrap book. With those allow-
ing to see my quilt, books, etc. I should like to
have a letter from you & think it
ought to be a long one. I asked you
once for advice as to how to improve

my epistles. I could write better
I find my desk or sitting case
& think I might have my work done
from M. The folks here still refuse
me materials for work - I require
fine needles & both white & black cotton
also sewing silk, buttons & hooks -
I seldom eat meat for dinner or
only very little & we do not have
rice puddings so that bread is often
my principal diet all day
They even refuse me plain biscuits -
I dislike to complain about my
food but others as well as myself
suffer from ill health partly caused
by want of nourishing & suitable diet -
The plates, mugs, basins &c which
we use are generally cracked or chipped
they tell me that bread is not allowed
on 14th day. They will provide me
pump water but we seldom get it. -
My health still suffers from my
not being allowed to go to the closet
when I require - the one in the court

where I usually walk with not far
a shoe in the other coats and used
doubtless being dirty - I have spoken
to M. H. about these things
but they take no notice. The swing
is generally dirty. - The rimmed
are continually increasing. We of telling
people but I am certain they can-
not prove we to have told any wil-
ful untruth & I do not often I am
mistaken in any statement I make
as for the counts have caused me to be
very careful what I say so that they
may not know any blame for find-
ing fault with me. One night Lady
was shamefully treated by Whiffield
told M. H. about it - M. H. after
said over to me that Whiffield treated
her very roughly in the right sometimes.
and that Whiffield is often ill-used by
beginning that their sometimes cause
M. H. to be so very by being untrue
once lately she was angry

because they insisted on her
taking powder & I never said
a word to her on the subject of
decalation but for the matter, we
very exactly & she to take the
same kind of food as myself.

I have given her a great deal
of information & think that might
tell me what medicine I have been
taking that some Sulphur would be
useful to me soon. I like to see
not give the medicine regularly - yes-
terday I had gone till 10 o'clock
P.M. They had to do so before
night - regularity is very important.

D. Hays generally put 10 drops
in a tumbler of water & invariably gave
two medicines to be taken alternately.
When at business we used to have
powders or pills. I had great con-
fidence in D. H. & have no doubt he
would have cured me when I went
home from Derby if his orders had



York Retreat 26/3/64

My dear Friend,

I gave M.D. a sealed letter for thee yesterday & she at once opened & read it. Had I supposed she would do so I should have sealed it more securely.

It was not one of much importance ~~but~~ she has been the bearer of some which contained information not intended for her & which may have shared the same fate

Last night I saw myself sitting in meeting on a side seat by M. A. Nixon. It seemed like preparative meeting - there was a table with green baize cover & E. Drimdale sat there

& I saw her open a large book
like a Bible. Some friend
came & said she wished to
speak to me alone after
meeting — it seemed rather like
Rev. Backhouse but I did not
remember when I woke so clearly
what she was like as I did
E. Dinsdale. I was not

thinking abt. meeting or any-
thing of the kind yesterday.

When I have these kind
of dreams I always wake di-
rectly after. I slept again
& dreamt as is frequently the
case what seemed a confused
impression of things I had been
thinking abt. lately — quite dif-
ferent from the first mentioned
dream or vision. I have oc-

casionally thought of asking
to go to meeting in York but
considered I might hear that
to thy judgment & said nothing
about it For one season

I have rather shrunk from
going — others might think me
presumptuous for expressing my
feelings on this subject but
I do not think I am wilt.

I cannot ~~wrap~~ do away with
an impression which has for some
time been upon my mind that
at some time I should feel
called upon to openly declare the
works of God. It is not for
me to choose or I would fain
it had pleased my Heavenly
Father that I might work for
Him in a more private way

only. D. Atkinson some time ago expressed her surprise that I did not go to meeting & I replied that I wished to leave that entirely to thee. —

Once before (when nearly 19 years of age) when I had felt tempted to plunge into a watery grave, as I walked by the water side at Gravesend & night was coming on, better feelings came over me & I raised to Heaven a heartfelt tho' unuttered prayer that it would please the Almighty to put it into the heart of some one to befriend me. I had good reason to think then that no one on earth loved or cared for me. I had known Lewis & our acquaintance had been broken off. When that prayer ascended from my heart, a peace-

ful, quiet calmness came o'er
my spirit & I felt as if conscious
that I should be saved & restored
to society & it seemed to me that
He who saved me would give
me a work to do for him on
earth. I had then been 3
or 4 days at Gravesend & when
I left London had only 4/2 (I
think) with me & no change of
clothes. At the time I allude
to my money was spent. It was
in December & I had a print dress
on so was cold & miserable every
way - that night I willingly
gave myself up to a policeman
& passed the night in a prison
cell. When they went to father
he said I seemed to have a fan-
cy for prison life so he should
not help me out but the police
officer had kinder feelings & in-
quired if he could go to any other

relative. The result was that
uncle Simmons came for me
& took charge of me for a time
& treated me very kindly indeed.

Father told falsehoods to de-
fend himself as is too often the
case with those who do wrong.

He refused to see or commu-
nicate with me or do anything
except pay for board & lodging
which I suppose "Friends" told
him they should compel him
to do.

It is a relief to me
to be allowed to make thee ac-
quainted with my past life as
I cannot help often thinking of it.

There are many parts of it of
which I have never spoken to any
except dear Lewis. I told him all
about it before we were married.

With love Thine respectfully
Margaret

The Retreat

York 24/3/44

My dear Brother

Dear Brother

I had quite intended

to thank you for the

kindness of your letter &

to send up those

to your Father

writing yesterday

to thank you for the

kindness of your letter &

to send up those

to your Father

to thank you for the

kindness of your letter &

to send up those

to thank you for the

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The Regenerator for its
 valuable properties were
 known to the numerous
 individuals who complained
 of having a poor crop of
 hair of a bald place where
 the wool ought to grow.
 There can be no doubt
 you would sell a quantity
 of it continually. When you
 sent me the recipe I had
 it prepared in Manchester
 the perfume & colorage of
 it, as well as the coloring was
 quite different. It makes my
 hair finer than anything
 else I ever used. The
 powder of various kinds

you did this I used much more
had a few (supper) hot & smooth.
I tried cooking here I have
had nothing but water &
I think lotion which was to
cool my hot head & I find
your preparation cooling & re-
freshing you should ad-
vertise it & get over two
testimonials as to its value
from some influential individ-
uals. I am writing too
fast and carelessly a fault
I have admitted to. but
the copy is also
given to move very rapidly
in conversation. I do not
think my talk is careless now
for the discipline it has in-
dured. I trust I worked a

beneficially in regard making
the particular to make no
incorrect or exaggerated state-
ments.

A young woman
who came a few weeks since
remarked on Sunday that
she had observed my influence

over others to be very power-
ful — the consciousness that
there is some truth in the
remark is one reason for

my desire to be more & more
careful as to what I say &
do. It is often very hard to
feel that "the spirit indeed

is willing but the flesh is
weak" — It is very helpful to
have such a friend as J. K.
upon whose judgment I can
rely generally but not as to the

medicines best suited to me.

I have found it necessary
to refuse all remedies except
Homeopathic & never intend
again to make use of Allopathic
remedies under any circum-
stances. It is trying for
you that your neighbours have
to remove in consequence of
the Railway but otherwise I
should be inclined to think
that the viroads made into
the densely populated city might
prove beneficial eventually and
probably you are well aware
that it is impossible for any
human being to enjoy really
good health living in such a
neighborhood as that which sur-
rounded you to say nothing
of Club Road Bethnal Green &

a hundred other such like
places. I have traversed
Club Row & adjacent streets
on business, since we have
been in Manchester & you will
remember that I once lodged
on the premises belonging to
Whitechapel burial ground. —

I shall always feel a sort
of affection for Fore St. Crippen-
gate but cannot forget the
dismal, crowded streets which
adjoined it. Will you send
me a newspaper occasionally?

I have heard no particu-
lars abt. the new Railway &
do not know what the one is
called which interferes with
you. Is the subterranean
again in use? —

In thy letter thou added an unnecessary ~~at~~ at the end of answer & wrote rather for rather also particulars for particulars - This last was probably a slip of the pen. -

Do not be discouraged from ~~not~~ writing to me because I mention the errata.

I like to be told when I am in error so "do as I would be done by" It will give me great pleasure to hear from you as often as you can spare time to ~~not~~ write & if I do not reply promptly it will be because Dr. R. does not wish me to do so. I am much troubled with heat in the head also sometimes palpitation of the heart.

Most folks tell me to keep quiet.
but if I do it is generally the
case that my thoughts take
a mournful turn. It is cruel
of Father not to write - he
little knows how deep & heart-
felt is the affection which he
spurs. Can John or the
sister spare time & money to come
& see me? I think Dr. K.
would not object & it would
be worth your while to come
to see the house & grounds &
uncle Charles would be pleased.

He & his family were very
kind to you when you first
left home. I do not know
how to obey Dr. K. as regards
writing short letters - thoughts
come faster than I can scribble

York Retreat 1 Mar. 1864.

My dear Friend,

Will thou kindly send
me some old letters to cut up
for patchwork? Mary Jane
Sunderland has been told
not to come in my sitting-
room.

If Mary Green were
in this gallery & allowed to
associate with me I have no
doubt she would be indus-
trious as she said to me "I will
do any thing that you tell me
to." — If I can be of any
use downstairs I have no
objection to go at any time
providing I may come up

if I feel poorly. —

If I might write home
for a few good things M:
Brown would know what to
send & I should like to give
a party — it would be suf-
ficient to let her know for
what purpose they were re-
quired & she would be sure
to send a good specimen of
her cookery. —

If thou wouldst invite
Dr. Rayner to come & see me
I expect he would gladly
do so & have no doubt would
give both thee & me some use-
ful information. —

My head is very hot & I

Seldom sleep after 4 o'clock
in the morning. E. Micklethwaite
often keeps me awake the early
part of the night with knocking
& E. Pryor sometimes with re-
citing or trying to sing.

It is strange thy wife
cannot see that her obse-
quious attention to Emily M.
Miss Taylor & other rich patients
makes them surly & unpleasant
to others. Some who value
a kind word seldom get any-
thing but incivility & the ser-
vants naturally follow her
example. — I should be
glad if I might see thy chil-
dren sometimes. I have only

been on the Terrace 3 or 4
times since coming here &
in other ways am treated more
unkindly than any other pa-
tient. — I am satisfied
to trust thy judgment & will
do what thou wishes as far
as possible but when injus-
tice is carried to the extent
it has been with me I choose
to resist tho' I do it passively
~~but if~~ generally but if my
feelings are repressed they are
not less keen.

With love I remain

Thine respectfully

Margaret Wright

My dear Friend,
Thy wife told me that
any one who illtreated me should
be sent away & Miss Dodds treats
me unjustly every day. I have
today submitted to be punished
by her because G. Watson had
done wrong & have not made
use of a single improper word.
I have been in the least excited as
3 attendants & some of the patients
can testify & I think the time has
come for me to say that either
M. Dodds or myself must leave
here. I believe I can prove

that I have been treated unjustly
by her almost if not quite
every day of late & I trust to
thy sense of justice ~~to justify~~
& will leave it to thee to do as thou

thinks right. — On the night
we were in the saloon M. D. was
offended with me because I would
not leave the friends to talk to
or be amused by her & consequently
would not speak to me the greater
part of the next day. A few days
after she said that I was not fit
to be troubled with a pair of
scissors & when I told her that
I could not get stockings to wear
told me to go to bed. — She re-
fused to let me go to the fire
in the dining-room in the evening
when M. D. is in bed & I cannot go
to the sitting room & in the morning
kept in bed till after
breakfast. I could multiply such
instances as these & long ago I told
her instances in which I was treated
thamfully by Ellen Smith & others.

York Retreat 5 o'clock
Wednesday morning

My dear Friend,

It has caused me
much unhappiness that thou
shouldst have made what
I consider an unkind re-
mark abt. me on 2nd day
morning. I am accustomed

to be treated unjustly & un-
kindly by my wife, Mr. Dodds
& others & if I am to expect
the same from thee I think
I have been here long
enough. Mrs. Ridsdale

was hoarse because she

was shouting at the top
of her voice for some hours
on 1st day morning & the
nurses knew that very well.

The habits of some pa-
tients in this gallery are
such that unless we can
have some windows open
the air will often be poisonous
& there is frequently a
very offensive smell from
the sinks & closets. —

Whatever I have been
shown must be aware
that I am not now

insane & therefore ought
to have the option of
whether I stay here or not.

Lewis would not allow
me to stay if he knew
that I was ill-treated.

I cannot get food which
is suitable for me &
if I am denied fresh air
it is more than I ought
to submit to.

I did not speak to
her of E. Watson's behaviour
to me lately because I
dislike to complain but
it is strange that she

others knew then & at other
times that she acted in
such a way that any other
patient doing the same
would be sent down to
the refractory gallery) there
was no blame attached to
her conduct in my hearing.

I think I never speak to
her unless in a very extreme
necessity & when she brought
a chair & said she would
knock my head off only
took it out of her hand
& gave it back to her
supposing she would be

cooler but she again
tried to injure me with
it & I then held it &
called Nurse. It was
a warm day & the sun was
shining strongly in at the
window that I opened. —

If I had known she
was in her room it is
probable I should have
waited but when any
patient assumes authority
over me I will resist. —

It is a similar occur-
rence to those that have hap-
pened many times — I have
known J. Booth fly into a

passion because I moved
the door so as either to open
or shut it rather more than
it was saying it affected
her head & caused a draft.

I cannot account for
the unkind feeling thy
wife has towards me &
her unwillingness to trust
me in any way. If any
favor is granted me when
I ask for it, the enjoyment
is usually spoiled by the
~~way~~ some unkind remark
as for instance on 1st. May
when I went to walk on the
terrace calling out to me

in particular that she was
not going to have the flowers
gathered. I should not

have been likely to gather
any but many of the
other patients gather them
frequently & no fault found
with them.

If any one
tells me in a proper manner
that what I do is annoying
to others it is not my wish
to persist in doing so unneces-
sarily but if I had not
neglected my health & sacrificed
my comfort ~~to~~ do what I
thought right there would prob-
ably have been no cause for me

to come home.

If you would all remember that I am staying away from a tenderly affectionate husband & children who love me as I love them I think you would try not to be so harsh to me. I can make every allowance for what patients do & say knowing what I have been but do expect justice if without mercy from those who are supposed to know so much better than myself.

Yours respectfully

W. Knight

York Retreat 24/1/64

My dear friend,
I have had an awful
restless sleepless night but this
morning had quite a fine
dream about the which
I will tell to the Misses
but I think not to say any
more. — I had to wait from
10 o'clock till after breakfast before
I could get to the closet — I
was drawn out — had to wait from
6 till 11 for water to drink
& had to wait to wash
with. — They are allowed
to sleep in this room (my sit-
ting room) & I told Miss How that she
had better to let me have a
brush so that I may keep the
beard tidy. — Agnes Petch fre-
quently repeats the mottoes
to work with & tells me I am

extraneous which is false
I think Lewis would willingly
pay for as much cotton as
like to use. I am also
without a pocket handkerchief
& had no fuel in my room
I have been very ill several
times lately & have cured
myself by using means which
believe are a certain cure
for consumption.
The medicine, lotion, & ointment
came from the same place & I
very unreasonable to expect
that she should supply me
with ink to my friend Mr. Bayly
has sent me his & the penholder
Mr. Bodd's & the pen Mr. De Prior's
I have sent many similitudes
all over the house but none
the same shape as mine.

When I am awake in the
night they might allow me
a piece of bread early in
the morning. The nurses re-
fuse it. I have not
been allowed any exercise the
last two days.

Will you tell me what
Laffer means by dissipative fires
of Gehenna?

Thou once reminded me
forcibly of Dr. Sharp - when
I first talked freely to thee
Thou advised me as a friend
not to pry in the motives of
Dr. Sharp about me - he once
advised me as a friend to
do something & when I told my
father the latter replied "he
should have gone a little

further & commanded you
then you would have disobeyed
you & he would have punished
you himself" — it was after
I had been cruelly treated
& after rebelling against all
the women teachers he talked
to me till he worked me up
into a passion & then I told
him plainly what I knew was
right — I believe he forgot then
that I was a child of 11 or
12 years old & regarded me
as an equal. Lewis was
told before he we ever met
than when excited I was
irresistible. When my
father foretold the reaction
which he said would take
place I think he said "No"

York Retreat.
15 Sept. 1864

My dear friend
After writing a letter lately,
in which (as well as in many previous
communications to my relatives) I
had alluded to what I had bidst
done for me, it occurred to me
that it was doubtful whether it
was wise & right to write in that
way. Knowing how fondly you
habitually read what was written
to you, I was tempted to do so.
But the circumstances perhaps
be last, than it? How are you
not be without its good effects.
I write impulsively, without fore-
thought, in consequence of having
felt a reason to think myself treated
unkindly in many ways.
I am glad to hear that you are
well & happy. I shall
be glad to hear of your
progress in your studies.
I shall be glad to hear of your
progress in your studies.
I shall be glad to hear of your
progress in your studies.

My wife & others have been
very kind to me since & my health
is now much better again.

I remarked to thee that I
considered Lewis' close attention
to business had affected his char-
acter injuriously — he & his mo-
ther have frequently expressed a
sound opinion & we have always
felt it was not a business in
which we should like our boys
to be employed which my S.
has said was sufficient proof
that the effect on ourselves was
likely to be hurtful. When
taking stock we could always
prove that our own capital
was sufficient to apparently
warrant the expectation that

after disposing of the stock
we should have quite suffi-
cient to embark in some more
congenial concern but the
goods which compose the prin-
cipal part of the stock are
such as would have to be
sacrificed very much if forced
off in a given time & there is
usually from \$5000 to \$6000
worth in the warehouse. —

I believe if Lewis could
see any prospect of earning
a livelihood supposing he were
to part with his business &
have no capital left that
he would gladly risk the

consequences of doing so &
that was my reason for querying
of her some time ago in a
letter whether I & myself could
not have employment here. —

The irregularities occasioned
by the business & other circumstan-
ces have seemed to render it
necessary for us to live at a
high rate of personal expenditure
but neither of us are wishful
to be extravagant & we were both
accustomed to great economy in
our early homes so that I think
we could maintain ourselves &
children respectably ~~on~~ with
a very moderate income. —

At all times when I. has

Dr. H. A. Ching





I was intending to try &
make some ~~small~~ ^{little} ~~things~~ ^{things} for
writing. There are all that used
to be by ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~writing~~ ^{writing} ~~table~~ ^{table}
one that would please the
better when I see it. I find this is
the ~~best~~ ^{best} ~~piece~~ ^{piece} of paper in my
possession so I have ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~yet~~ ^{yet}
tried ~~it~~ ^{it} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~expression~~ ^{expression} of my
thoughts & feelings which come to the

Tell me is likely to be the case)
Please be so very kind as to send
me a quire of paper = 24 sheets.
I asked if thou wouldst let me
have a basket of envelopes & thou saidst
"yes" but if I find a packet here
they don't elsewhere - so lest you
forget folks should be equally
equipped with paper I mention the
No. of sheets. You folks have
lived just off the world so long

The friends back at the Free School
say that the children are very
happy & that the school is very
well managed. I am very glad to hear
also of everything else that is going on.
The school is doing very well & the
children are all very happy & are
very well. I am very glad to hear
of everything else that is going on.
The school is doing very well & the
children are all very happy & are
very well. I am very glad to hear
of everything else that is going on.

[illegible]

[illegible]

York Retreat 14 Jan'y 1864
 Dear Sir,
 I have been thinking of writing to you for some time, but have been so busy that I could not find time. I have been thinking of writing to you for some time, but have been so busy that I could not find time. I have been thinking of writing to you for some time, but have been so busy that I could not find time.