

Papers relating to Isabel Benington

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Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

By Virtue of Her Majesty's General Commission under the Great Seal of Great Britain bearing date at Westminster the Twenty-sixth day of February One thousand eight hundred and fifty-nine directed to FRANCIS BARLOW and SAMUEL WARREN Esquires the Commissioners therein named and an Order of THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE LORD

Lucia Sullivan

made on the *eighteenth* day of *April*

instant to inquire whether

Isabel Pennington

who is an Inmate of ^{situation} *any Asylum called*
the Friends Retreat ⁱⁿ *the City of York*

be a Lunatic or not THESE ARE TO WILL AND REQUIRE YOU that you personally be and appear before the said Commissioners or one of them on

Friday the twenty third day of *April*

instant at *eleven* o'clock in the *fore* noon
of that day precisely at the ~~house of~~ *Asylum*

commonly called and known by the name

design of the Friends Retreat

situate at *as of old*

the City of York

then and there upon your oath to testify the truth according to your knowledge touching the Lunacy of the said *Isabel Pennington*

and of all such matters as shall be

demand of you by virtue of the said Commission and order Hereof
fail not at your peril

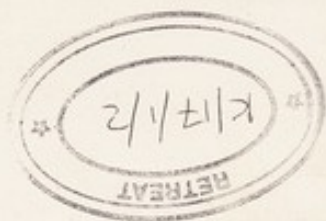
Given under the hand and seal of me *Francis Barlow*

Esquire one of the said Commissioners this *twenty first* day of

April One thousand eight hundred and seventy *five*

To *Robert Baker of the*
Friends Retreat in the
City of York Doctor of
Medicine

Francis Barlow



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In Lunacy

In the Matter of Isabel
Benington a person of
unsound mind

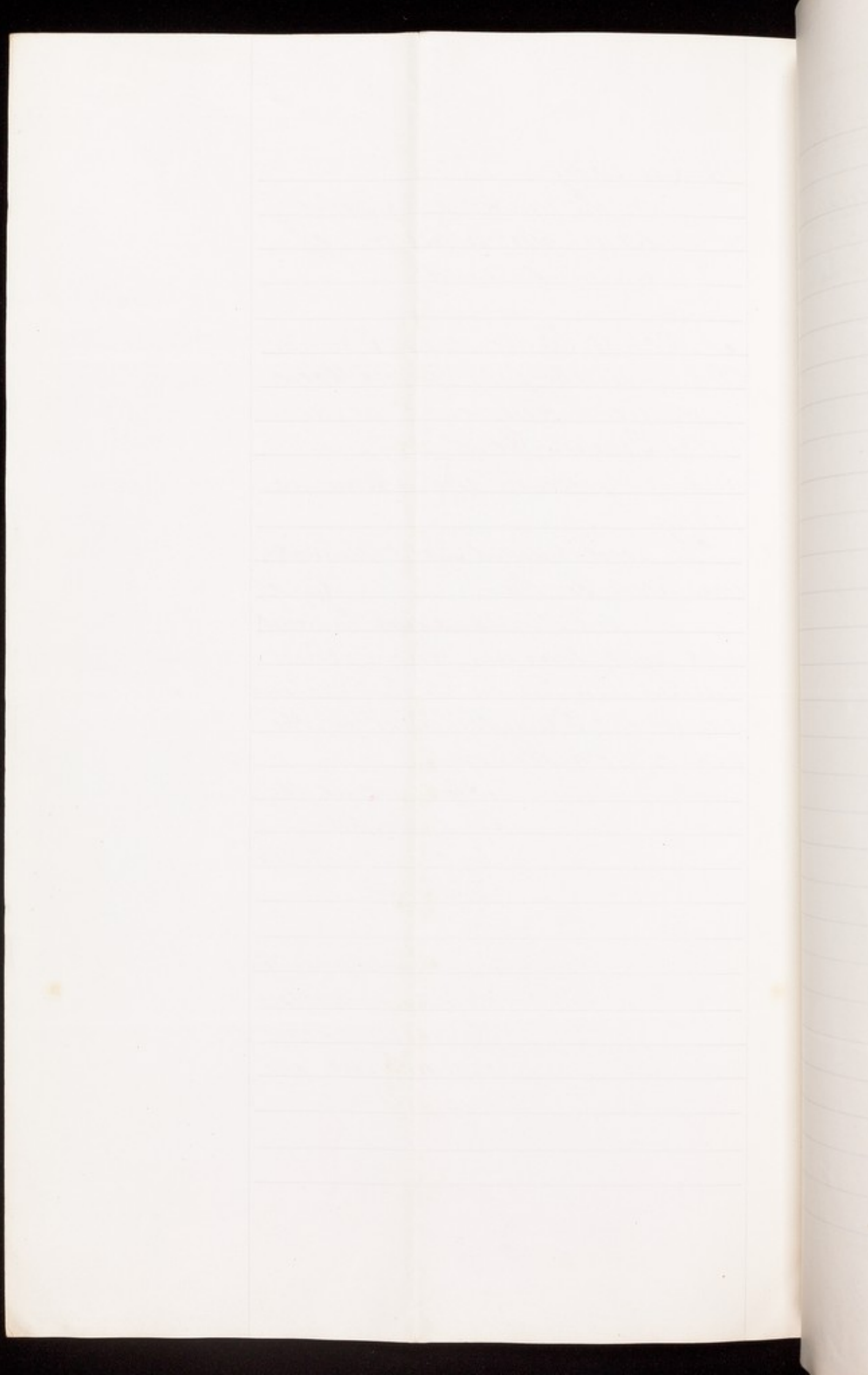
I Robert Baker of the Friends
Retreat in the City of York Doctor
of Medicine being one of the people
called Quakers Do solemnly sincerely
and truly declare and affirm as
follows:

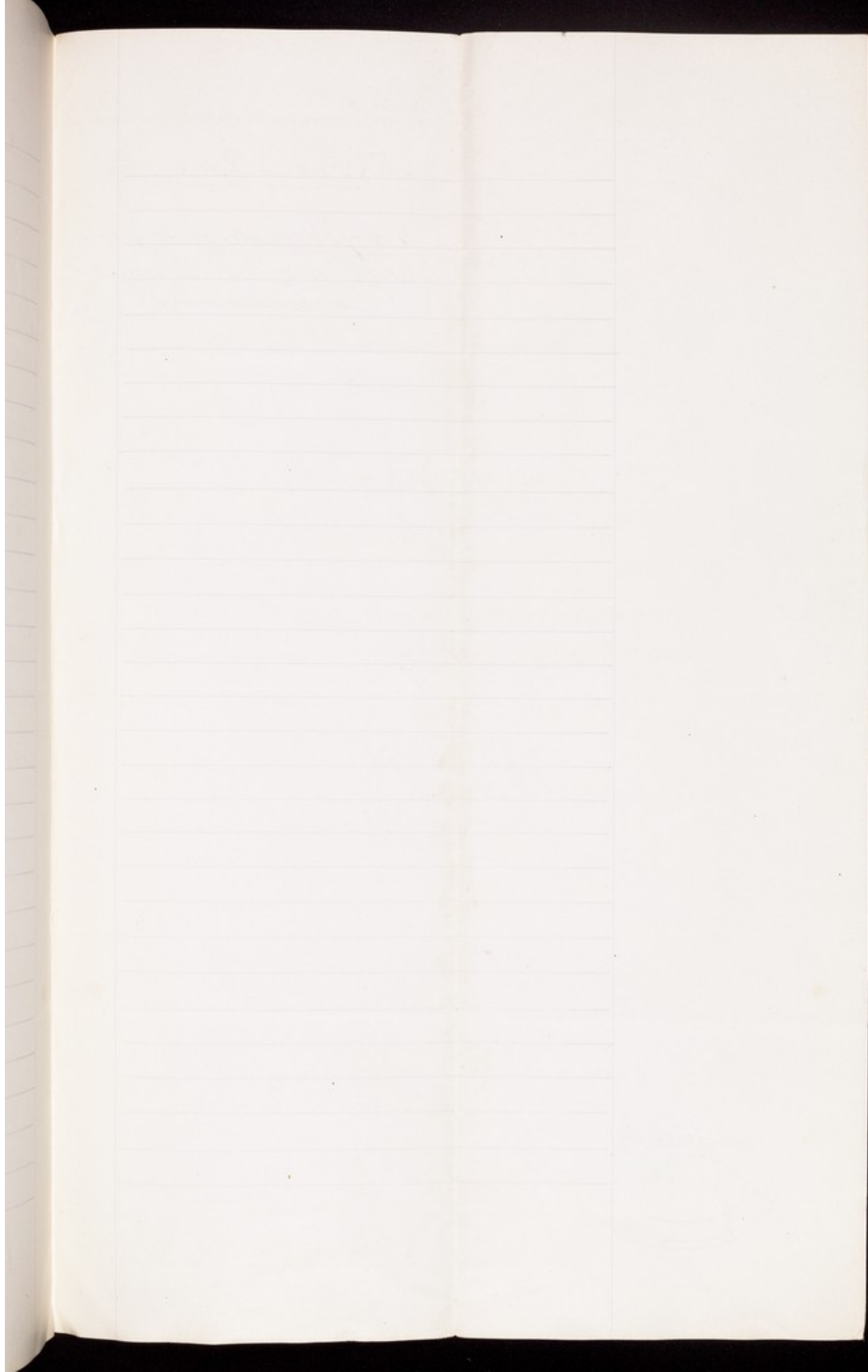
- 1 The above-named Isabel Benington
was alive on the _____ day of
_____ one thousand eight hundred
and eighty four as I know from
having seen her on the last mentioned
day at the Friends Retreat in the
City of York aforesaid.

Robt Baker

Affirmed at the
City of York this
day of _____ 1884.
Before me

A Commissioner to
administer Oaths in
the Supreme Court
of Judicature in
England





Dated

1884

Re Isabel Benington

Affirmation to prove
the existence of Miss Benington



Brown Wickin Wood
Wakefield

Wakefield 8th month 25th

My dear Cousin

Eliza Pitetung

I think thou wilt excuse my troubling thee with this note, & ask if thou wilt kindly write me in a day or two to say how my dear sister seems - it is, as thou may suppose distressing that it is thought needful she should at present be at York - I think having resided so long very much alone has been one cause of her present state - for the last three years she has been in lodgings at the village of Wharfedale - about half way between Rikeworth and Wakefield, where she had no suitable acquaintance, and

If thou find there is any thing my sister seems in want of at present - perhaps thou wilt kindly mention it and send before leaving home.

during her stay there, the Mr. ^{while from home}
died, and a niece also died in
the house and there were
other depressing discomforts
— her motive for remaining
seemed to be, waiting for a
house just to her mind —

It was very painful to me
to witness her distress on
finding where she was going
without any ^{her having any} notice or idea
that it was at all useful —

— We were pleased with the
appearance and manner of the
nurse — but I made a mistake
in telling my sister that she
was acquainted with our cousin
who used to reside at Cam —
forgetting at the moment her
great fear of relations &c

"Friends" knowing of her present
state - I expect you will
already have discovered her
illusions as regards Newspaper
Editions - supposing that
nearly all the contents are
in some way connected with
herself, and she has read often
with considerable interest -
and whilst now and then
very indignant, frequently
amused - on many subjects
she has generally been quite
sensible - she has lately had
a lodging very near to us and
has attended to her concerns
there, without any difficulty
- her trunk was packed
expecting to go to Rhaistrup
so suppose she will ^{have} a change

also to your family. I remain
your affectionate cousin
J. D. Huntington

of linen &c sufficient for
the present - we shall no
doubt have more to send
before long - we rather hope
to go to Southport on 5th or
6th day - My poor sister Julia
expected to have gone with
us - please excuse my writing
so many particulars - I scarcely
know whether I have expressed
my self understandably for
I have written in haste -
- I am enclosing my sister a
short note in this - I scarcely
know what to say to her -
can hardly expect a note from
herself just yet - I quite hope
with the kind care and treatment
she will now experience she will
soon improve - With dear
love to thy self and cousin John

Mr. L. L. Pennington

Ely's Pitching

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In Lunacy.

In the Matter of
Isabel Bennington a supposed
Lunatic

I Robert Baker of the
Friends Retreat in the City of
York Doctor of Medicine being one
of the people called Quakers Do solemnly
sincerely and truly declare and affirm
as follows:-

- 1st That I have been since the
thirtieth day of June 1844 and
am now the Resident Medical
Superintendent of the Lunatic
Asylum known as the "Friends
Retreat" at York and that the
said Isabel Bennington has been
since the twenty-fourth day of August
1843, and is now confined in the
said Asylum as a person of
unsound mind and understanding.
- 2 That from my Appointment
as Resident Medical Superintendent
of the said Asylum until the
present period the said Isabel
Bennington has been morbidly
suspicious and labouring under
the delusion that her boxes have been
broken open and property belonging
to her abstracted therefrom by certain
person or persons. She affirms that
some of her stolen property is occasionally

returned after a time, but placed in different positions from those from which they had been abstracted and she shows little scratches on her boxes as a proof that false Keys have been employed. She affirms falsely that clothing and other property are stolen from her room. She refuses to read any newspapers because she is under the impression that she is frequently alluded to in the paragraphs under other names

3 That from the conduct and discourse of the said Isabel Bennington during the whole period that she has been in the Asylum and I have been the Resident Medical Superintendent as aforesaid I am of opinion she is decidedly of unsound mind and understanding and altogether unfit for the management of herself or her affairs

4 I saw the said Isabel Bennington on the morning of the 5th day of March when she was still in the same unsound state of mind as above described

Affirmed at _____ in
the County of _____ this
_____ day of
One thousand eight hundred and
seventy five

Before me

A Commissioner to administer Oaths
in Chancery in England.

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