

Papers relating to Henry Smith

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Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
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According to the request I forward
a report of the present condition of Henry
Smith.

He does not appear to labor under any
delusion which can be strictly called delirium.
He manifests however, great mental inferiority
in various ~~ways~~ respects, & ~~cannot~~ ^{cannot} ~~perform~~
the vigorous activity of the intellect. ^{highly unstable}
After perfectly calm, he is ~~led~~ ^{led} to ~~the~~
statements of self-criticism by very slight
causes. He is ^{especially} ~~highly~~ ^{much} ~~affected~~ ^{upset} as to what
is good for him or otherwise, & unduly
moved by the absence of any ^{small} gratification
which he desires, it will to him. He is
nervous to ^{excess} ~~the~~ ^{degree} ~~incompatible~~ with
a sound mind. As a person ^{of} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~highest~~ ^{highest} ~~order~~ ^{order}

he some months ago had his thumb severely
 crushed in a Railway carriage, but ^{& though it has been much dried & cured, he} for fear
~~of the pain~~ has never allowed it any surgeon
 to examine it, or even see it previous to his
 coming to the Retreat.

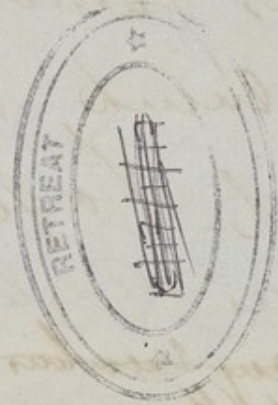
About some years ago he had a regular &
 respectable life. ^{was influenced by} & ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~very~~ ^{very} ~~way~~ ^{way} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~visit~~ ^{visit} ~~his~~ ^{his} ~~business~~ ^{business}
 to such an extent as to think ^{it} his duty
 to preach the Gospel. For several years
~~those~~ ⁱⁿ ~~past~~ ^{indulged} he has ~~been~~ ^{been} ~~very~~ ^{very} ~~much~~ ^{much} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~habit~~ ^{habit} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~drinking~~ ^{drinking}
 wine & ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~drinking~~ ^{drinking} ~~strong~~ ^{strong} ~~spirits~~ ^{spirits}.
 His conduct has ~~been~~ ^{been} ~~very~~ ^{very} ~~much~~ ^{much} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~habit~~ ^{habit} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~drinking~~ ^{drinking}
 wine & ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~drinking~~ ^{drinking} ~~strong~~ ^{strong} ~~spirits~~ ^{spirits}.
 He would obtain
 money from others on any pretext
 & ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~performed~~ ^{performed} ~~any~~ ^{any} ~~moral~~ ^{moral} ~~obligation~~ ^{obligation}
 to ~~take~~ ^{take} ~~any~~ ^{any} ~~care~~ ^{care} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~it~~ ^{it} ~~afterwards~~ ^{afterwards}.

This ~~habit~~ ^{habit} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~drinking~~ ^{drinking} ~~strong~~ ^{strong} ~~spirits~~ ^{spirits} appears to be destroyed
 & ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~performed~~ ^{performed} ~~any~~ ^{any} ~~moral~~ ^{moral} ~~obligation~~ ^{obligation}
 to ~~take~~ ^{take} ~~any~~ ^{any} ~~care~~ ^{care} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~it~~ ^{it} ~~afterwards~~ ^{afterwards}.
 He ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~performed~~ ^{performed} ~~any~~ ^{any} ~~moral~~ ^{moral} ~~obligation~~ ^{obligation}
 to ~~take~~ ^{take} ~~any~~ ^{any} ~~care~~ ^{care} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~it~~ ^{it} ~~afterwards~~ ^{afterwards}.
 & ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~performed~~ ^{performed} ~~any~~ ^{any} ~~moral~~ ^{moral} ~~obligation~~ ^{obligation}
 to ~~take~~ ^{take} ~~any~~ ^{any} ~~care~~ ^{care} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~it~~ ^{it} ~~afterwards~~ ^{afterwards}.

Further testimony to the statements here
made, & in corroboration of an opinion we
must in this case, & others like it, depend
greatly upon the history of the individual.
I enclose you the answers appended
to the ^{some of} queries contained in the document
accompanying the Certificate as in this case
to the ^{history of the individual} which has ^{been} ^{carefully} ^{formed} by a witness
to the ^{facts} ^{have} ^{observed}, & those related
by his friends, leave no doubt upon
my mind, that H. S. is of unsound
mind. No person ^{to be} ^{detained}
in an Asylum -
& many members of his family have suffered from insanity.
& At the age of 14 he had an attack of Typhus fever
which was followed by delirium. In 1830 he ^{was again} ^{attacked}
by insanity, for which he was sent to Dan Asylum. By
his friends he is considered to have been ^{severely} ^{affected}
since ^{his} ^{early} ^{years} - Several other members
of his family have also suffered from insanity.

For several years past he has engaged
in a succession of abortive & unfruitful schemes
for ~~the purpose~~²

H. Y. Smith



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Essex

Stuk ⁴ III ma 11, 58

In reply to the letter of the 5th Inst. I
beg to state that it is my opinion that
Henry Smith the patient alluded to in
it is decidedly a pensioner & a swindler. I ground
this opinion both upon his history & his
present condition. His history shows that he
was formerly a well conducted & a pious re-
ligious man, though avaricious & avaricious.
^{but that} For the last several years he has had a
^{sleepy} & a striking want of ^{consistency} ^{stability} ⁱⁿ ^{his} ^{conduct}. His
~~is~~ remarkable change of conduct. His
habits have been very intemperate. He
has engaged in numerous unwholesome schemes
of trade. all of which have failed. He has
been in the habit of borrowing money
on specious promises, even from poor people
& manifested the greatest violence & anger, if
asked for repayment. Besides borrowing, he

he raised money dishonestly or detained
it when due to others. ^{(27) on the ground} Latterly his time
has been ^{was} chiefly spent in visiting the public
houses in ^{Bridlington} Selwaby, ⁱⁿ the latter place had
resided about 20 years having absconded
from his ^{former} wife & family, the following is
an extract from ^{his wife's} letter to me from his
wife about the time ^{he was last} ~~St. Austle~~ ^{came} to the
Retreat. "His late hostess wrote us 'He was
so very bad after his son left him (at
Selwaby) & I was quite frightened of him'.
One of his maines was that I had some
quite deranged, that he so for months,
I wanted to be under care, another that we
were poisoning him to death that he all
the summer. (This would be in answer to
our daughter asking him to take some
tea or coffee, at the same time an-
saying he would not taste anything,
whatever might be the consequence.

This the medical man who signed the former
Certificate bears him say - also calling his
Daughter sad name, when she was asked
as possible. We have no control over his
expenditure to his survivors, borrowing
from any one."

It was whilst at, or going to, Sewerby that
his thumb was crushed in a railway
Carriage, the bone of the last phalanx being
broken, & the fragments were afterwards
discharged. The thumb remained without
medical treatment, & became perforated
with sinuses, through which fragments of bone
& spurs were discharged. It still has open
discharging sores, & the ~~whole member~~^{is} is
much thickened. Since H.S. came to the
Retreat, the disease in the thumb has been
gradually improving in character. but
less rapidly than it would probably ~~could~~
have done, if it had been practicable to

^{subject to}
proper surgical treatment, which is impossible
without force, from ^{excessive} nervous ~~debility~~
dread of the best pair. With respect to Rachel
Smith's opinion that the neural was injured
or made worse by the rough treatment
of Cornelius Richardson, the statement is
^{quite glo to eye, & the mind is} simply ~~false~~. The attendant who was
sent to fetch the patient from Leewards informed
me that she later forgot it, but ~~is able~~
to ~~say~~ ^{know} questioned ~~from~~ me if she was careful
to avoid hurting her, he informed me that
he had not touched the affected head.
(2^d Most of the Friends relatives of the patient have
considered him for a long time out of his
mind, & that an Asylum was the proper
place for him; had it not been for their
prevailing opinion his conduct must have
led him repeatedly to a prison.)
Of his present state of mind I have nothing
~~to~~ to add to what I lastly reported to the Com-
missioners. It cannot be expected that any

^{sensible}
Improvement should be take place in
so ~~the~~ ^{my} brief space of time.

Although it is my opinion (that Henry
Smith is of unsobered mind) & that of most
of his friends who have been long acquainted
^{with} ~~him~~ ⁽¹⁾ coincides with my own. It is one of those
cases where it would be difficult to substantiate
upon mere conversation with him, &
in this account, it is any possible ~~that~~
some might be led to a different conclusion.

I cannot look upon the ~~the~~ judgment of
his daughter Rachel Smith as entitled to ~~any~~
~~much weight~~. She is ⁱⁿ ~~of a~~ Temperament & Gen-
~~eration~~. She is ⁱⁿ ~~of a~~ Temperament & Gen-
eration so like her father, & has manifested
so many aberrations of ~~conduct~~ herself, that
~~total~~ ^{many} of her friends had at various times
doubted her sanity. Two of her brothers &
sisters have been decidedly insane & under
treatment on that account. ^{most of them} I have, had several
interviews with her, & found from her strange

I quite & manfully considered her a very
unfit person to be in frequent communication
with any ^{one} ~~insane~~ person. She expressed a ~~strong~~
intireless a belief that her father was not in-
sane, but professed gratitude for the kind care
he was under.

I may say in conclusion that the Committee
of the ~~Wheat~~ ^{can have no design to undertake the support}
~~would gladly be repaid from the~~
~~profits of this patent, if they could get any~~
~~other way of performing their duty, as his work~~
costs ^{under} an annual loss of ~~£25~~ ^{£25} when
~~the funds of the Institution. H. Smith's funds being~~
unable to raise more than 10/- per week for
his maintenance, whereas the cost of the ~~Wheat~~ ^{Wheat} a-
mounts to ~~£25~~ ^{£25} double that sum.
He is his subject to great fluctuations
of feeling, being sometimes violent, irascible &
threatening, at others mild & repentant. His conduct
to his wife has been at times so dangerous &
he has shown so unreasonable an aversion to her
& other members of his family, ~~as to~~ ^{as to}
they have long attributed his ~~strangeness~~ ^{strangeness} to insanity.

My correspondence to the nurse shows her views
for a considerable period of this opinion &
some months ago a Certificate of his insanity
was signed by a Medical man, & could have been
acted upon, had the patient absconded, & could not
be found.

In addition to the irritability, & the unusual
champs noted above,

Note 2. The Commission, with ready under-
standing that a daughter of this exorbitant tempera-
ment might ^{early} readily so far enter into her father's
policies as to be misled in her judgment &
give the colouring she has to her statements.

Note 3. ^{Now} except ~~rather~~ the conviction that it ~~is~~ ^{is} the
Rivers's most suitable thing ^{that can be done} for her.

Dr. Fowler
19 Whit-hale Place
S.W.



Report on
Mary Smith
Jan 1888

Henry Smith first received a gratuity as wages on the 21st
of 5th month and the last on the 1st of 11th month the total
amount being £ 2. 10 being about 10^s per week.

The money was ostensibly spent in Fruit, Gingerbread, Fruit,
Eggs, Shrimps, Coffee, Sugar and Stationary. &c.

He was deprived of his beer or Porter on the 16th of 7th month.
gave up working on the 19th professing to be so weak and
exhausted as to be unable to do without it but resumed his
former employment again in a few days.

He ever after professed to be a Total Abstainer in practice
He did not usually go to York more than once a week after
he was deprived of his beer and then not alone,

Sam Mason
on Henry Smith