Papers relating to Daniel Richardson

Publication/Creation

1850 - 1866

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Retreat 3mo 6 1852

Dear Eliza

I wrote a note yesterday and sent to T Gapsill to request him to go over to inquire whether thee had any message thee wished to send to me. and to give my love to thee and send word how the health is at this time. I am much obliged to thee for the kind message thee sent me and I sincerely hope to receive one from thee that will make my heart glad. and that we may yet meet together in love upon that spot where I have been torn from to live together in love to comfort each other and be made to rejoice in the Lord and praise his Holy name wait upon him and seek for that strength which cometh from him that we may go on from day to day in his holy guidance and divine requirings I am quite well in health and should be

glad and thankful to get home
again to try and do all that lays
in my power to make thee com
fortable. 3 mo 29 after having writ
ten thus far I concluded not to
send it but wait untill I had
a note from either J Gopsill or
J H Harrisson to see what message
I had from thee I have now re-
ceived a note from J Gopsill which
contained only a message of respect
from thee and that thee wished him
to say thee was much oblidged for
the note I sent thee. what is it
that keeps back that message of
love from thee. what is it because
thee are carrying on a private corre-
spondance with passionate Thos.
Holmes that has used me so cruel
2nd or is it because there is a mal
lignant revengful feeling against
me resting in thy heart. I have
got nothing in mine towards thee
but best wishes and interests for
thy welfare seasoned with kindne

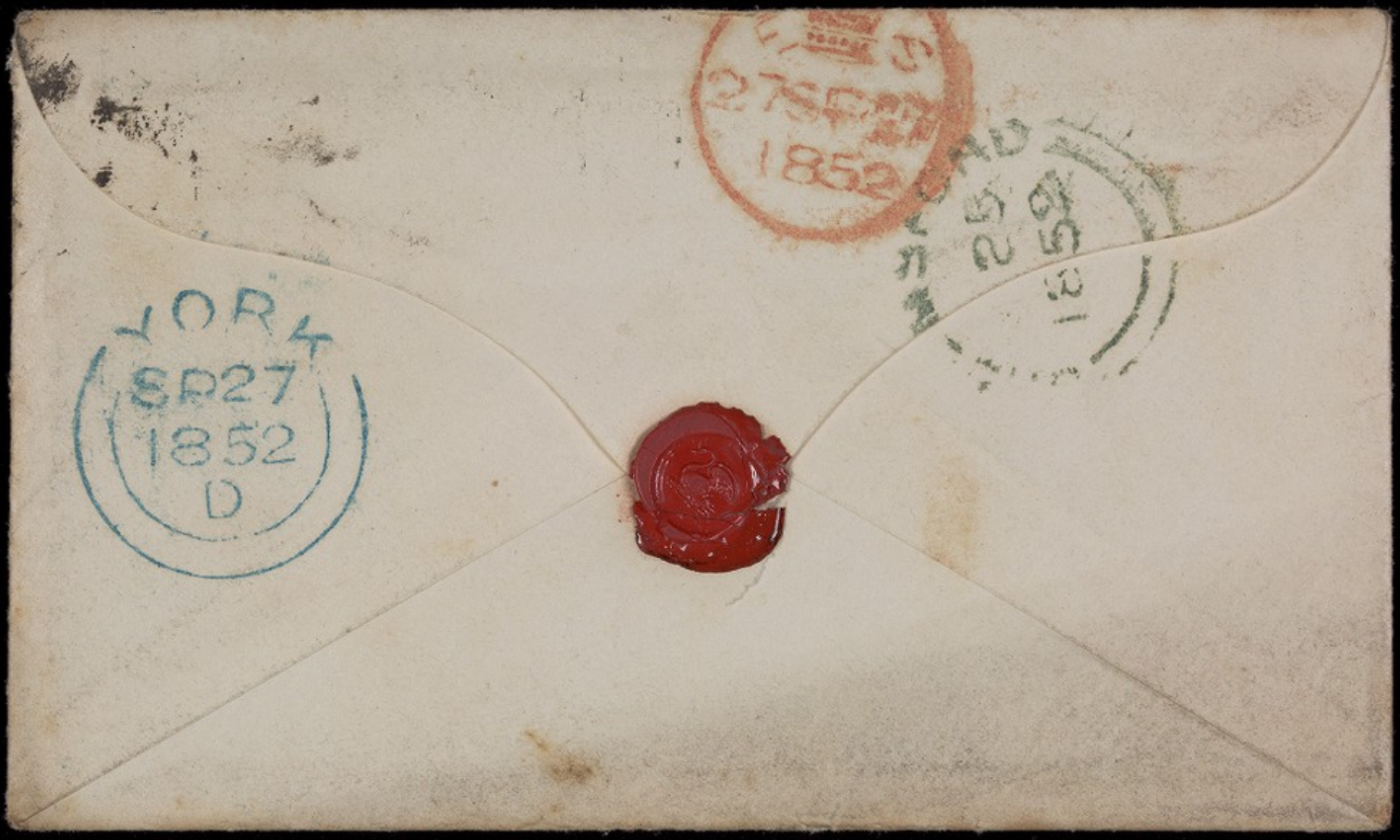
charity and sincere love thee are very likely told by some of my adversarys that I have got no love for thee. but if thee are that is not true. for there is no act that I have done for any one since I have been here that has weakened it on my part towards thee. my fervent wish to thee is for thy heart to be filled full of love to God and then I hope and believe there would be a little to spare to form a ball with that would pass through every malignant mountain on along the most difficult path that has been laid between us. it has and will be my fervent prayer that the Lords power may yet work a clear and bright shining day before long. so that I may be permited to come home again through it with the armour of God resting upon my head that will be able to defend me in every battle and by the

way side as I pass along. I received a note from Cousin Jane Harrison this morning in answer to the one I wrote to them last week she informed me that thee was but poorly which I was sorry to hear. I hope I shall see thee looking comfortable and happy before long with me in my native home. I will not give thee up to Thos Holmes or any one else. thee are kept there by my request and I sincerely hope thee will not forsake me. if thee do. I believe thee will never have no peace of mind wait patiently upon the Lord I hope his blessed power will be so working in and around me so that I shall soon be liberated by the working of it. from this persecuting state of existance and bondage. I remain with dear love to thee and best wishes for thy welfare every way thy affectionate persecuted
Sincere Friend Daniel Richardson

to
Eliza Brewster

John Kitching
Rebecah
York

Mr D Richardson
The Retreat
York


27 SEP 27
1852
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Chelmsford
25 Sept 1852

Dear Mr Richardson.

I saw Mr F Hill the Gaoler yesterday & explained to them how well I had found you were now - they were very glad tho' a little surprised to hear such a good account of you - and quite agreed in wishing you should ~~so~~ come home. tho' Mr Hill seemed to think my report might prove too favorable. and he should wish to hear from Mr J Ketching - I told him that I should hear in a day or two from

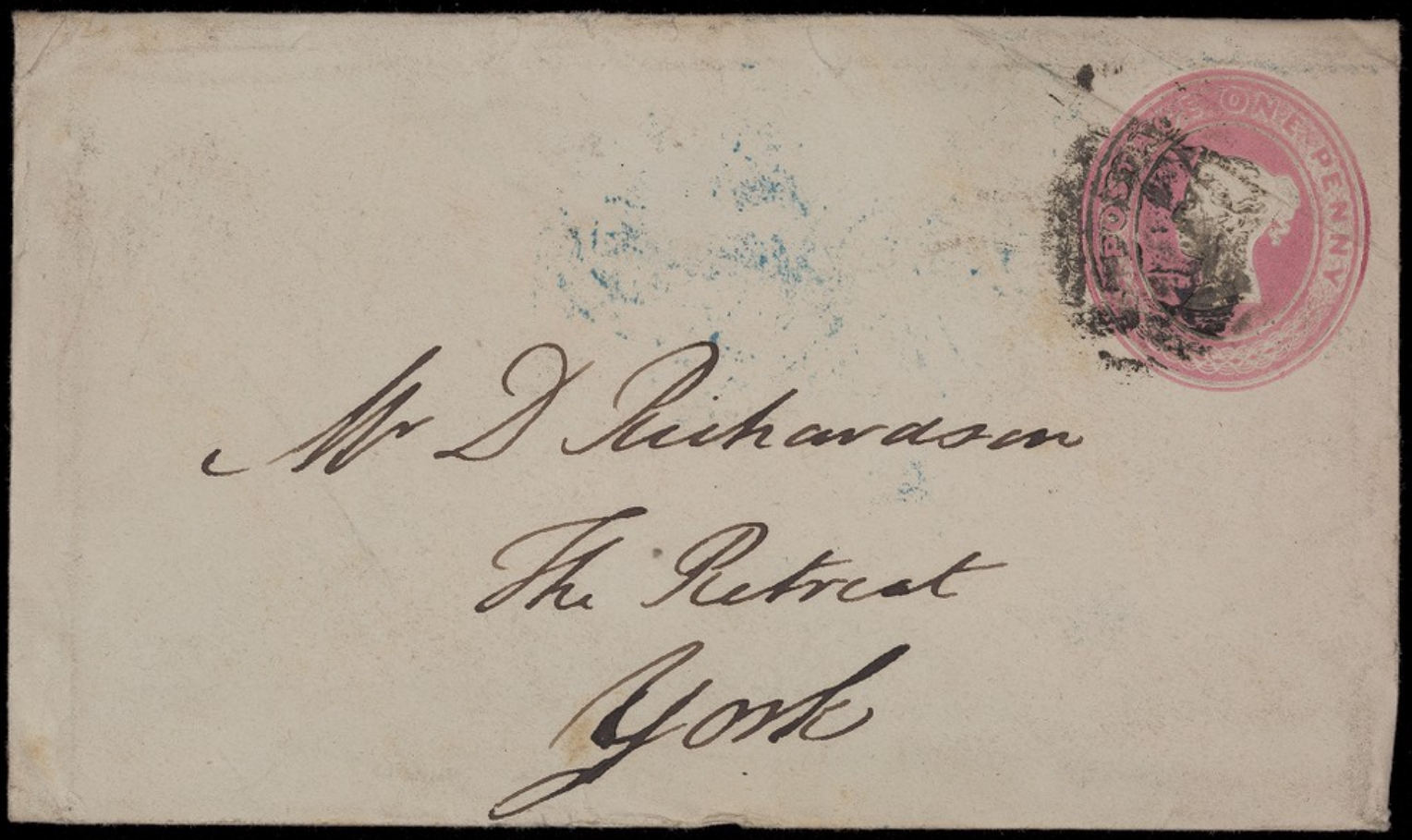
Dr Laycock when upon I had
no doubt would be quite satisfactory
and that I quite expected Dr Bateman
& Mr C Williams would agree with
Dr Laycock in thinking it right
that you should come home - and
on finding that this is so I shall
will I have no doubt go to Gate
bring you back - but of course
you must not be impatient -
I saw T Gibson this afternoon & I
am to go with him on Tuesday to your
house - then I shall see Elizabeth
Prewitt & prepare her to expect
you home - probably this week after
next - or it may be a week longer

I will write to you again after I have been to Leighs – and in the mean time I shall be glad to receive a letter from you to assure me that you continue quite well – I happy at the expectation of going home – and that you have made up your mind to attend to what Dr Laycock said to you –

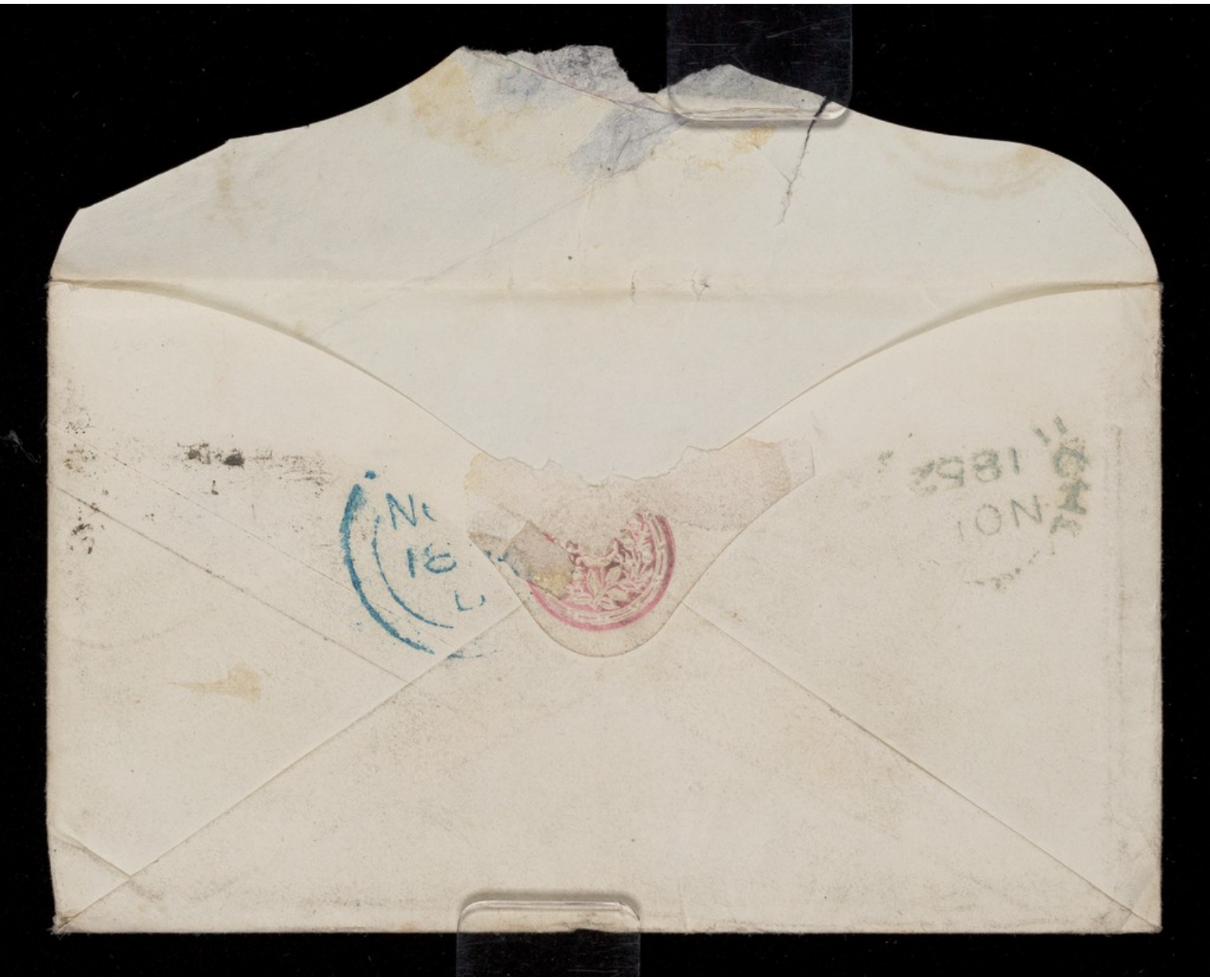
Mrs Bartlett desires to be kindly remembered to you and

Believe me
Your sincere friend
Robert Bartlett

P.S. Give my compliments to Mr Pitching from I hope he did not think me ~~[illegible]~~ neglectful in not seeing him when I returned with you to the Retreat


POST OFFICE ONE PENNY
Mr J Richardson
The Retreat
York

NO 15
16
NOV 1882



Chelmsford

13 Nov 1852

Dear Mr Richardson

It is so long (more than three weeks) since I last heard from you, & since when I have written to you twice, – on the 23d & on the 27th October, – that I begin to wonder why or how it is that I have not heard again from you – I trust however that you continue well – but in order to satisfy me that this is so I shall expect a letter from you by next Tuesday or

Wednesday's post - and I shall hope to hear that you received my two letters - and perhaps you will be able to tell me when you expect to ~~have~~ be at Leighs. At all events let me hear from you on Tuesday or Wednesday next

Believe me Your sincere Friend

Robert Bartlett

Mr D Richardson

thole

and my

write

respect

ents

esday

on Friend

Hill

Chelmsford
23rd Oct 1852

Dear Mr Richardson.

I saw Mr F Hills yesterday who informed me that they were getting on with the wheat sowing - but that he could not at present say when they should finish - and he seemed to think it best that they should pretty well finish before you went to Leipsic - perhaps this is so but there would be no harm, I think, in your writing to F Hills stating whatever your wishes may be as to your getting home as soon as he

can get things easy and make it convenient to go to Yale and I shall be glad to hear whether he names the time for going to Yale or what answer he gives to your letter.

Believe me ever sincere Friend

Robert Bartlett

d

Yorke

whether

to

ies to

Lincoln

Chelmsford

20 Oct 1852

My dear Mr Richardson,

Yours of the 18th reached me in due course of post yesterday. I was very glad to find from it that you continue in such good health, & spirits: & altho' I should rejoice to welcome you on your return to Sajhe I should be very sorry to say or do any thing to make you uncomfortable or for a moment dissatisfied with the arrangement made for your return home - I shall hear details see Mr. F Miles on Friday when perhaps he will name a time for

going to York to bring you home.
& I shall try & persuade him
to do so before this fine weather
is gone - ~~[illegible]~~ and by the end
of next week I should think the
hurry and bustle of seed time will
have been got over - I will get Mr
Hills to write to you - or as she
wants I will write - I hope you
will not let any thing irritate or
vex or annoy you, but keep up
your spirits by the certainty that
you will <u>very soon</u> find yourself,
where you wish to be, <u>at home</u>; -
and if you do this you may rest
assured that nobody can (if they

should try which I will not suppose) prevent your leaving the Retreat & returning to your home — and ~~that~~ when you are there you may rest assured satisfied that nobody has, or can have, any power to interfere with you in the happy management of your temporal affairs. I assure you I quite look forward to the pleasure of seeing you at the home of your Father, as happy & comfortable, or more so in every respect than you ever were.

Only "Be of good cheer" and all is well, and will be well!

Believe me, your sincere Friend

Robert Bartlett

Chelmsford
29 Sept 1852

Dear Mr Richardson

When I wrote to you on Saturday last I expected as I said to have gone over to Leighs yesterday, to have seen Eliza Prewster, - I was prevented going yesterday and Mr Gosnell is out to day. I will be to morrow so that we shall not be ~~able~~ able to go before Saturday but as you may be expecting to hear from me I write to explain the delay - I shall be glad to have a letter from you, I hope to hear

that you continue in all respects quite as well as when I left you yesterday week, & then I still hope that in the course of next week I shall have the pleasure & satisfaction of seeing you in Lynn - but do not make yourself uneasy or uncomfortable if this should not be so - but rest assured that I will take care that no unnecessary delay shall take place - as far as is in my power - When you write say if you wish me to give any message, or say any thing for you to Eliza Brewster - W T

Hill & Mr Gospell will be with me on Friday when I shall be able to make known to them Dr Laycock's favorable report —

Mrs Bartlett begs to be kindly remembered to you

And Believe me
My dear Mr Richardson,
Your sincere Friend
Robert Bartlett

Mr D. Richardson —

P.S. If you write to me to morrow so as to get your letter in the Post any time to-morrow evening I shall get it by 8 o'clock on Saturday morning

Crown Hotel
Scarboro
17 Sept 1852

Sir,

I have thought much since Wednesday evn. the question of Mr D Richardson leaving the Retreat returning home, and the impression which I then made known to you is I may say ripened into a strong conviction of the propriety of his being allowed to return to his home. Still I cannot but feel that it might be thought somewhat presumptuous in me to act entirely in my intended communication with Mr T Gill & other

friends of Mr Richardson on my
own opinion & judgment I therefore
have made up my mind to go to
York to morrow for the
accommodation of a friend (a
Gentleman of high respectability
of York) to request a Physician of
good standing & repute to accompany
me to the Retreat there an interview
with Mr Richardson & then to hear at
me with his candid opinion on the
propriety of the step I am contemplating
In this course I presume there will
be no objection on your part. I

shall return to town before 12 o'
clock shall probably be at the
Retreat between two & three o'clock.

I am in haste
Yours truly
Robert Parker

J. Pitchers Esq

R. Bartlett to
Geo. 9/17. 1852.

Esteemed Friend.

I am Ketching.

Having seen Robert Bartlett and heard from him the steps he had taken with regard to my Cousin Daniel Richardson July confirms my observation "that his proceedings were extraordinary" he has had no authority from me to act as he has done nor can I sanction it — I have placed my relation under the care of the managers of the Retreat and have never for one moment doubted their efficiency and trust that the managers will

not take any steps in this Matter but what they really believe will conduce to the real benefit of my afflicted Relative —

Bartlett mentioned a person of the name of Dr Loyeck who we judged he should abide by — surely the Medical men of the Establishment will be able to convince him of the real state of Dr K.

Mr Gabrill regrets the manner in which R B has acted — and wishes he had shown the letter to me first —

I understand R B. to be a person very hasty and hot at first but after

awhile cools down —
he certainly need not
have acted so injudiciously
if he had properly consid-
ered the situation he
stands in as regards my
cousin.

With dear love to
my Cousin and to thyself
I remain
Thy sincere friend

J. W. Ashley

9 Mo 25 1852
Prested Hall
Wheldon

F. Hill, to Wm.
9/25. rec'd 9/28. 1852

Phila 10 Mo 3 1852

Esteemed Friend.

I have concluded to pay thee a visit in the course of this week probably on 4th day believing that after what has occurred it would be best for a personal interview.

I have seen Bartley again and think his interference in the matter quite unjust & cause a bad feeling

I am very truly
thy friend Thos. H. Kelly

Mr Brickes Northfield.
Mr Dexter. Oct 27. 1852.

Respected Friend,

My note to Caleb Williams requesting him to furnish thee with a copy of the minutes of the Commissioners on the case of Daniel Richardson, has been sent into my hands.
I now write to transform

tion that the whole subject has been laid before the Committee of the Institution & it is their judgement that I should not be authorised to forward them with a copy of that minute. They also ~~further~~ think that all further proceedings should be suspended in this case until the Lord Chancellor order the patient was re-moved into ~~the Asylum~~ the Refuge. I have ~~the~~ ~~honour~~ to be, Sir, ~~&c~~ &c &c

Your obedt Servt

To Dr Laycock.

J. Wr. to Dr
Leycock.

York 25 Sept

Dear Sir,

I shall feel much obliged if you for a copy of the decision of the Commissioners in Lunacy in Daniel Richardson's case, at your earliest convenience.

Yours truly

Ragsdale

C. Williams Esq.

Dr Laycock to
C. W. Williams.

Scarboro'
20 Sept 1852

Dear Sir,

I find I shall be in York to morrow for two or three hours in my way to Knaresboro' - and I propose calling at the Retreat about twelve o'clock - when I hope there will be no objection to Mr Richardson walking out with me for an hour or so - I have written to Mr R to say as much to him -

Yours truly
Robert Dallas

J Batchelor Esq

N. Bartlett to
Wm. 9/20. 1852.

Retreat 7 mo 4 1850

Dear Cousin

I thought I would try and write a few lines to inform the how very much distressed I feel at the dreadful and distressing consequences that must result from the proceedings you have taken respecting my business. there was not any way to save me but keeping at Home and doing the business myself I am now entirely ruined and expect that you all are as well. O if the had tryed to persuade me to do my business more then the did and not have tryed as the did to keep it from me it would have been much better for us all and I might have been kept at Home but now I expect that I shall never see it any more as I feel confident that it is lost and we are all placed in the most miserable situation that ever any

human beings ever were placed
on. I quite believe that the Retreat
is also entirely lost from Friends
by your sending me here and that
our Society will be quite broken
up by my being sent in such a
ruinous manner to this place I
have tryed to convince you by my
letters as much as I could of what
the consequence would be I quite believe
that the most dreadful and horrible
event is hanging over our heads
that ever happened to any Nation
or people under heaven, I wish
he not to send any more News
papers the did not ought to have
sent them as the have done
with the same paper around them
as they come to my poor lost Home
with I am quite afraid that
some bad consequence may take
place from there coming as they
have done with my name upon them
as I do not consider that they
are either your or my property
in the position that the business

stands in now O I am afraid that war and bloodshed will be the result of the proceedings that have been taken towards me to drive perhaps thousands from there Homes I have told J Ritching that I am very much distressed about my business being left as it was he said he would write to F Hilly I told him that I did not think it was any use to write to him as I expected he was not able to attend to any business. O it was a horrid bad thing that you would not believe any thing that I told you when I knew I was telling you the truth and that I should be ruined if you sent me here what are the poor Quakers come to I am afraid this business will end miserable for us all. I hope the will write soon as the have received this and say whether the have quite left of going to my poor lost Home. I expect we are all ruined. ruined. ruined

I remain with love to the and my other Relations as if named

they affect^t and grieved Cousin

D Richardson

John Hampson Jr
Pelitie

The Retreat.
Aug 27. 1853.

Dear Friend,

I was in hopes of hearing from thee on the subject of my last letter, & as thou not done so I now write to request that thou will be kind enough to inform me if it is with thy approbation that Robert Bartlett

visit Daniel Richardson
& bring a physician of
his own to examine
Daniel Richardson with
a view to ascertain the
state of his mind. I am
aware that there might
probably feel this business
to be involved in considera-
able difficulty to themself,
but it is quite possible that
what has been done has
been without the consent
& authority. But having
been accustomed to

urged Thomas Lapsill to
himself as ~~equally~~ alike interested
in D. R.'s welfare, believ=
ing that you acted in
concert. I thought it right,
on receiving a note from
T. Lapsill requesting that
R. Bartlett might see
D. R. & not supposing
that the ~~letter~~ letter had any
ulterior views, to allow
the interview desired. On
R. Bartlett seconding
however the step of
engaging a physician &

his own to visit the patient
the matter has assumed
a different aspect & I
have consulted the Com-
mittee on the subject, &
it is our united opinion
that any further proceeding
should not be allowed
until we know the mind
on the subject. Now it was
that having signed the order
for D. K. Hamilton as a
patient into the Asylum
it is in my power to
remove him at any
time, whatever may

In the opinion of the Medical Officers of the Institution as to his fitness for discharge. that being the case it is not probable that any satisfactory result can follow from the interference of a stranger medical man with the case. If there be any friends of D.K's friends who think that he is unnecessarily confined they can apply to the ~~Court of Chancery~~ Lord Chancellor

& instituto a Commissão
"de Lunatico inquirendo."
It is most likely that before
taking such a step, thou
wouldst think it best
to give D. Richardson a
trial at home - but whichever
may be the course pursued
it is hoped that D.R's
friends will all see the
desirableness of refraining
from a proceeding so far
this Institution is altogether
unaccustomed.

My carefully will oblige
Thy sincere friend
Francis Hills. John Kitching

Wm. & J. Stilly.

Great Leighs 2nd mo 17th
1853

Respected Friend

I expect thee have thought me very backward and neglectfull in not writing to thee before now to let thee know whether I got Home safe and how I was getting on. I may inform thee, I reached home on 5th day afternoon as we intended after stopping one night in London. but I was very ill all night in London from taking cold in my bowels and another attack of indigestion brought on by eating the mutton chops for dinner the day before I left the Retreat. I felt considerable pain in my bowels nearly all

night and uneasyness of the
Stomach caused by the indi
gestion. but I was relieved
before morning by a severe
purgeing and such a fit of
sickness and violent reach
ing as I think I never before
had to undergo, so that I
was the next day and after
I got home for several days
in a very weak state. I was
oblidged to be very careful
of what I took for some -
time as my stomach was
very weak, after being so
upset again. I have had a
cold upon me almost ever
since I have been at home
as I have taken a little fresh
cold I believe every time I rode
out or to Chelmsford nearly
up to this time. but am
now thankful in being able
to inform thee that my bodi
ly health is now much im-
proved and I am getting —

stronger and better able to
bear the cold in going a
Journey. though I was not
so well in health as I ought
to have been before I went
out after being so ill. yet
I went to Chelmsford —
Market the next week
after I got home and faced
them all, some of my Neigh
bours and those that had
previously known me, seemed
heartily glad to see me
there again, and some of
them expressed a very warm
and Joyful feeling on shak
ing hands with me far more
so than I anticipated —
would be the case. I am
glad to say I have after re-
covering from the upset I
have mentioned as to my be
ing ill in London, been able
to manage and attend to
my business very comfortably

and have been very closely
employed in making al-
terations and setting some
things a little more as I
like to see them. I am —
afraid thee will think my
note getting to much like
some of those I have shown
to thee for they inspection
needlessly long and tedious
to read, but I do not feel
easy to close it without
inserting that I wish my
love to be given to friend
Wood and I sincerely hope
he is quite recovered from
his illness and is now
blessed with the enjoyment
of good health. Please to
give my love to Ino Fowler if
she has not left, and to Wm
Harrisson, I hope he is better
also to our kind F.d Jas. Mason
and other inquirers. I and —
remain thy friend
Danl Richardson

Retreat 10 mo 29 1852

Dear Cousin

As the time that I name to thee and Geo. Sanders and agreed to stay with you to remain longer at the Retreat will expire on 4th day next or 5th day at furthest. I feel it my duty to inform thee that it is my wish to be removed Home the fore part of next week according to the time mentioned and I also wish thee to understand that all voluntary submission to remain here longer than that time will entirely be given up and considered void by me. I wrote a note yesterday to J. Gapsill in which I sent a message to thee but as I did not write it earlier to him. I am afraid he will not get my note soon enough to deliver my message to thee at Chelmsford Market and if so perhaps he would not see thee untill

next week. therefore I concluded
this morning to write to thee. I
should have been glad as I asked
thee to write for me after
thee got Home to have received
a few lines from thee. but I
suppose thee have not written
I expect the wet weather has
been quite a hinderance to
your getting on with the Wheat
sowing so fast as was expected
but I think that does not
ought to make any differance
about my returning home, as
I believe I may truly say that
I feel quite able to take the
Masters part in ordering or
the Mans in sowing or drill
ing as I have previously done
many times. it would be much
pleasanter to me to go home
when the farm work is pro-
ceeding in its usual course
with the men having plenty of
regular work to go too. than

to stop here untill near Christmas when perhaps the ground will be covered with snow and is difficult to find employment for the men. I do not at present know whether my friend I Kitching will be willing to consent to my wishes by giving his sanction to my going home next week. but let that be as it may I consider as the affair was left. I have done no more than what was my duty to do in writing what I have then may think I have given very short notice. but as I knew it rested with our friend I Kitching as to the time of my going I did not think it would do any good to say any thing to him untill the time was nearly up ——

I have just been showing what I had written to our friend I Kitching who informs me I cannot be liberated untill the committee meet again. which I was not aware of. I expect

they will meet again in about two weeks. when I sincerely hope to be set at liberty and if such is the case thee will be I suppose duly informed thereof. I hope the weather will be finer that you may get on better with the wheat sowing. hoping soon to see thee again after me I conclude with love to thee and Cousin Hannah thy affectionate Cousin

Danl. Richardson

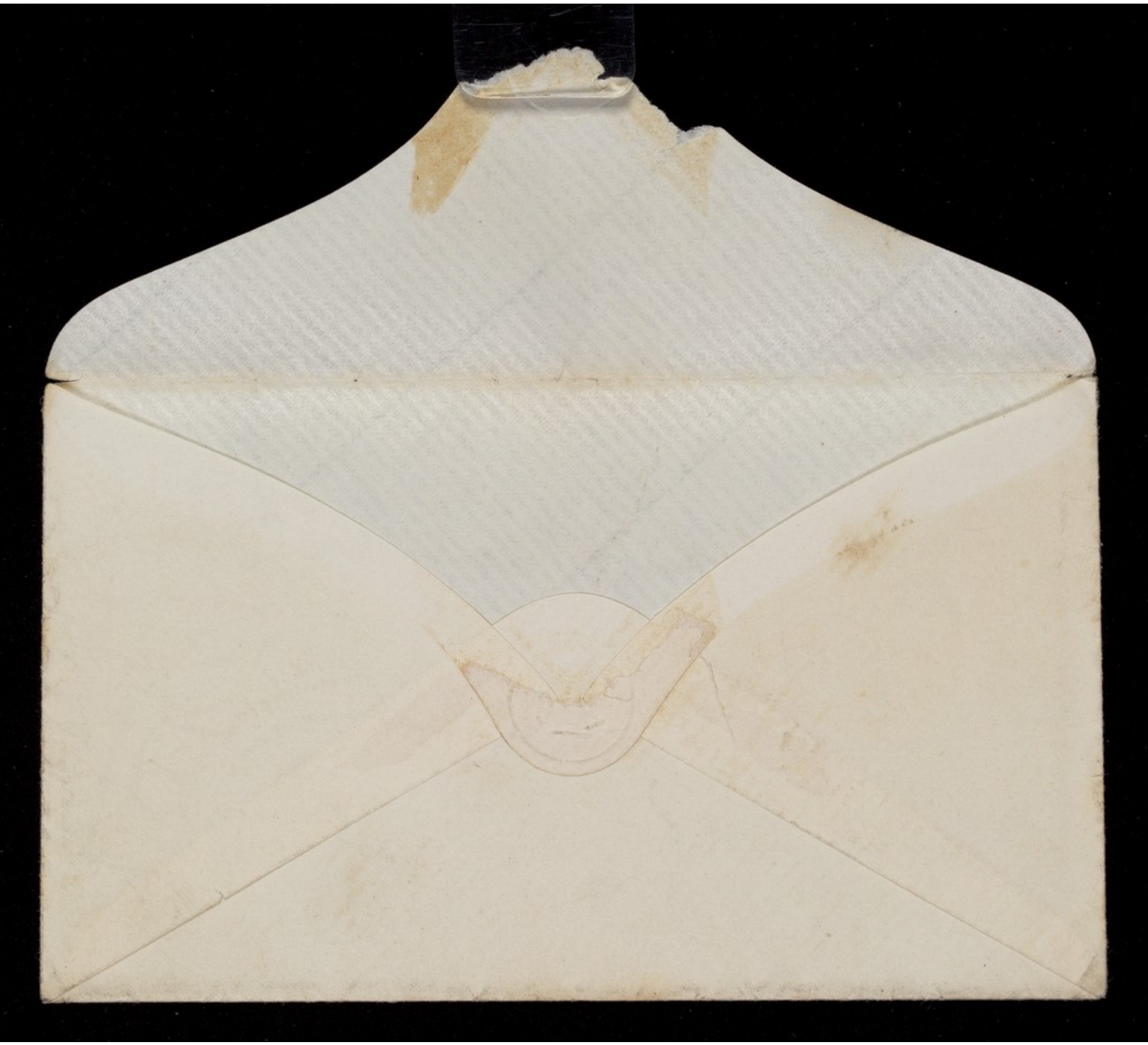
10 I excuse the writing being so bad I have had great trouble to make the pen write I suppose from the ink being bad.

John Kitching Esqre

Medical Superintendant

Friends Retreat.

York



I Daniel Richardson of Great Leighs in the County of Essex Farmer do hereby certify and declare that I will not under any pretence whatever give up alter or decline my ~~views~~ wishes intention and previous determination expressed by me to Jno Ritching Esqr ~~visiting~~ Medical Superintendant ~~Surgeon~~ of the Friends Retreat York in respect to carrying out my wish and intention of marriage with Eliza Brewster now living at Great Leighs as afore said.

Signed Daniel Richardson

The Friends Retreat York

dated 4th month 2nd. 1852

D Richardson

Dear Friend
to Marriage

I received thy note and am sorry I have not written before this. I was glad to hear Mrs. Brewster was well I should be glad enough to get Home and do all I could to make her comfortable and happy it is a very cruel thing to be kept shut up here and sank here when I am well

enough to come Home
if D^r K would but
let me I should be
glad to know where
my keys are and in
whose hands my business
is. The people here are not
aware of the consequence
of my being preserved and
sent Home again if
not we shall all be
lost forever

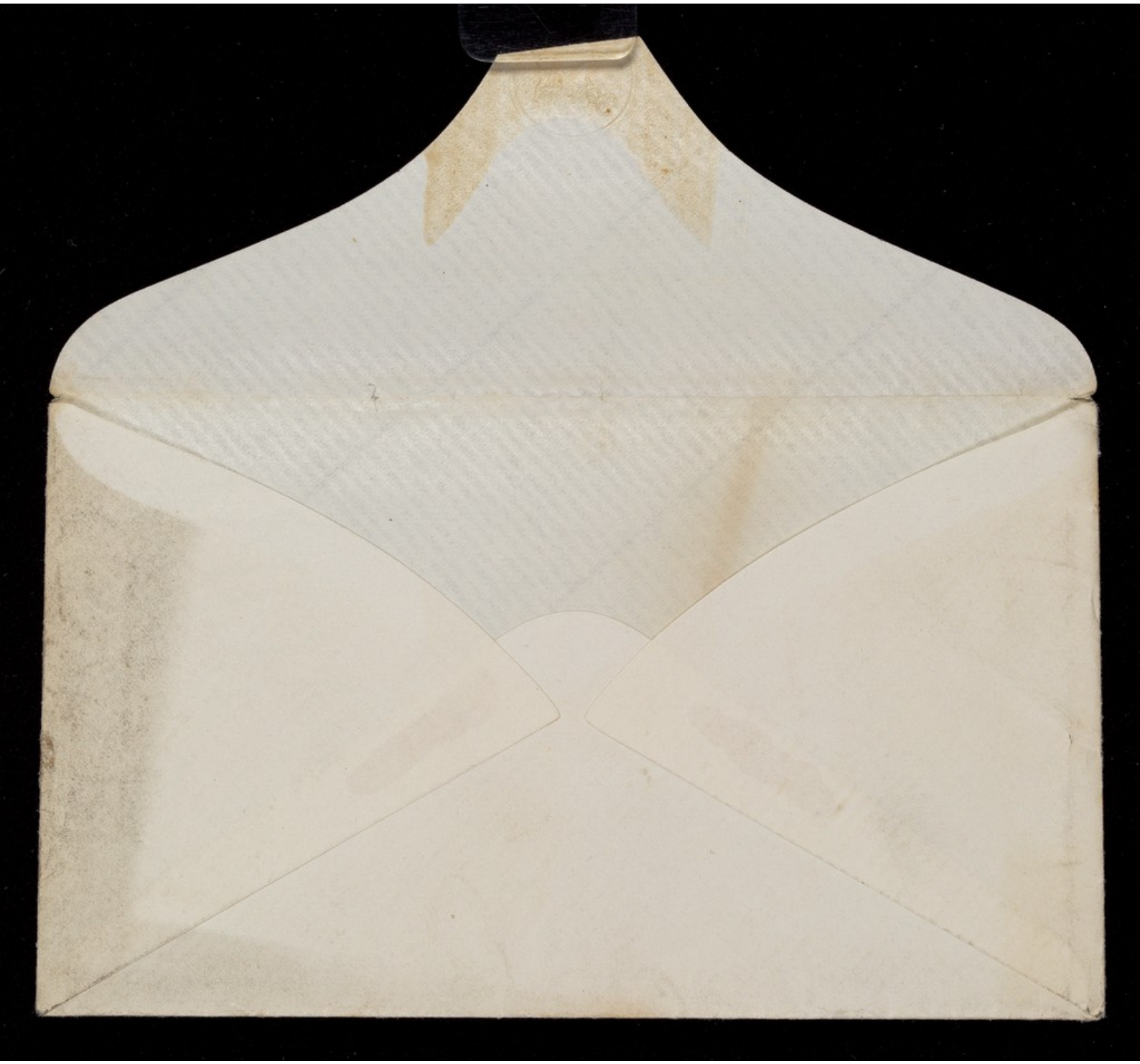
I remain with love
thy friend

J Richardson

John Stitching Esqr

Friends Retreat

York



I Daniel Richardson of Great Leighs in the County of Essex Farmer do hereby certify and declare that I will not under any pretence whatever give up alter or decline my views wishes intention and previous determination expressed by me to John Fletcher Esqr — Medical Superintendant of the Friends Retreat York in respect to carrying out my wish and intention of Marriage with Eliza Brewster now living at Great Leighs as aforesaid

Signed Daniel Richardson

The Friends Retreat York

dated 8 of 10th month 1852

In Lunacy

In the Matter of
Daniel Richardson
a supposed Lunatic

To the Right Honorable
The Lord High Chancellor of England

The humble Petition of
Francis Hills of Feering in
the County of Essex Farmer and
Henry Marriage of Broomfield
in the County of Essex Miller
and Farmer.

Sheweth

That Daniel Richardson late residing at Great Leighs in the County of Essex Farmer but now residing at and being an Inmate of an Asylum for the reception of persons of unsound mind at The Retreat in the City of York is now and for the space of Six Calendar Months last past hath been of unsound mind and altogether unfit and unable to govern himself or to manage his affairs as by the accompanying Affidavits appears.

That your Petitioners are intimate Friends of the said Daniel Richardson and having for some years taken a great interest in his welfare and in the

management of his affairs.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray your Lordship that the Masters in Lunacy or one of them may be directed to inquire and certify concerning the Lunacy of the said Daniel Richardson.

And your Petitioners shall ever pray &c

Fra^s. Hills

Witness to the signing by the said Francis Hills
W. W. Duffield
Solicitor of Chelmsford
Essex

Henry Marriage

Witness to the signing by the said Henry Marriage
W. W. Duffield
Solicitor of Chelmsford
Essex

In Lunacy
Lord Chancellor
Presented 26th June 1866

In the matter of
Daniel Richardson a
supposed Lunatic

Petition for Inquiry

Mr Daniel Richardson

Take notice that a petition of which a copy is within written was on the 26th day of June 1866 presented to the Lord Chancellor by William Ward Duffield and William John Bruty of 6 Tokenhouse Yard, Bank. & 6 my Agents and that by virtue of and under the same an enquiry may be ordered to take place before one of the masters in Lunacy as to whether you are or are not of unsound mind and incapable of managing yourself and your affairs but that you may in case you think fit demand that such enquiry may if ordered be had before a Jury in which case a notice of such your desire must be signed by you and attested by your Solicitor and filed with the Registrar in Lunacy at his office in Southampton Buildings Chancery Lane London within seven days after your receipt of this present notice

Dated this 6th day of July 1866

William Ward Duffield

Solicitor for the Petitioners

Duffield & Bruty
6 Tokenhouse Yard
for Duffield
Chelmsford

Retreat 7mo 15th. 1856

Dear Cousin

I received a note from she in which she have given me some information respecting your proceedings as regards the transacting my lamentable business concerns and if it was done by you for a good purpose I should be satisfied but as you have got no legal document that I know of from any one and well knowing what you did when I went to Hadham to secure my business and property to you has been made nul and void by my being in possession of the business since one single act of mine would make it so I believe after J Gosfill brought Woodgate back to my House which was on a 7 day I went into the Cowhouse the next morning and J Digby told me that one of the Calves ought to go away as there was not milk enough and asked me to go into the pen and handle it which I did and I think J Digby was set to work by the other party to get me to do it as he seemed very anxious that for me to do it the calf went to Francis's and was killed and sent to London by him and Woodgate went quite unexpectedly to me up to Francis's for the money the same morning as he came to kill the pig I told him it was not any use for him to go when he knew Francis was coming down directly he said he thought I wanted it I told him that I did not want it but he seemed very much to wished me to take it which I very reluctantly did and put it into the Bureau without looking at it where it still remains if no one has opened it I believe that he was set to do that for some particular purpose and that

you will find as I have always told you that he is working for the other party and was trying to ruin me I tryed all I possibly could to make you believe it but you would not. Never was there any poor humane being so cruelly drove from his Home as I have been by you and am now entirely ruined and my property I do not consider to be in your possession but that Woodgate is in possession of it being there is no doubt legally appointed by them as there agent when Galley gave him the letter when we were standing looking at them before I came away therefore whatever is done by him is done as being there agent and not your. I was struck with horror at reading thy note to see that the still remain in the same deluded state as regards the deploreable position that my property is left in. I consider you have completely stole my property in point of Law as Woodgate was a witness that it was not done by my consent I am well aware that I was most grievously to blame for not doing the business myself more then I did but I was so upset by thy telling me that the would send me here and the seemed so desperately set against me which excited me and hurt my feelings very much as I never tryed to take the advantage of the or any other Relation in any transaction of business whatever but have on the contrary on any times tryed to help them and have now got turned out of House and Home for doing it and am kept shut up here I believe entirely through thy showing my letters which I wrote to convince you of the deploreable position my property is left in and the woefull and miserable consequence it will be to me by thy driving me in such a shamefull manner to this place I would rather have suffered anything then to have come here to bring any trouble upon the kind Friends that have the management of this place it cannot be described either by pen or by the tongue what cause of secret inward mourning it has been to me as I feel quite certain that my property is lost by it being left in the dreadful position that it now stands in I quite expect that this affair will end the most shocking and deploreable that has ever happened in this Country and I believe it will be the means of

breaking up our Society and driving many from there Homes
you have opened a wide door for the cruel Foreigners that
I have fell into the hands of and have been at work in var
ious ways to try and ruin me to come and take away our
property and upset the laws of England. I am quite ~~that~~
certain that they have got possession of my property by your
having Woodgate there who is I am quite sure connected with
them as I have always told you and that Eliza is also I
think it is very likely that she may be privately married
before now without your knowing it as I had the private
signal of victory sent in the news papers 2 weeks which
I sepect were sent by her there is something happened I belie
ve by which they stand as being possessed of my property by
heirship O there has been a deep trick carried on by them
to get possessed of my property you could never have done
any thing better for them then to have sent me here and have
left them as they are that was just what they wanted. you have
ruined me by disbelieving all that I told you they were not delus-
ions as you callis them you will find that the delusions wil
fall upon you and that you are placed in the hands of t
party that have been about me for some time. Eliza t
before I came away that the Quakers were comin
now it was a very bad thing that I had her in the House
as I was situated. I sepect from what she said to me when she
was over here that the have ~~been~~ set it of to people that I
have been carrying on a criminal intercorse with her but if
she have there is a witness in Heaven that knows that is not
true she thought by getting me away from my Home that you
would be quite safe to have my property but you will find
yourselves quite mistaken there was no means you could have
put into force so wrong as to drive me here to be ruined I have
been as well and as able to do my business as ever I was in my
life for months past but have felt so very uncomfortable about
my business being left in the position it now stands in and
should have written to the before if she had not shown my
letters which I think was very unfair of her I never had so much
trouble to write a letter in my life as the pens are so extreamly bad
with love to the and Cousin Hannah thy grieved Cousin E. Richardson

P.S. I hope the will write to me as soon as the have received this as I am in such extreme uneasyness about my property being lost knowing the ruinous manner it is left in you are not aware of the horrid consequences that are surrounding you in many ways I told I Stitching that quite ~~afraid~~ expected that the Retreat is lost from Friends by your sending me here there has been several Foriegners to look over it since I have been here and I believe they are the same as have been about me

Frances Hills for
Hearing
not Relieve on
Oyez

very much
Rel

I hope that if I am to be kept here that one of you will come over to york and see me before Harvest as soon as you can that I may have some conversation with you to convince you of the miserable state my business is left in I expect the person that the said she spent the evening with when the came to York was one of the men that are looking out to gather all the information they can about your proceedings in my wretched affair

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In compliance with the desire of the Committee that the Medical Officers should report to them on the cases of Daniel Richardson, John Fowler & William Lamb, in consequence of a statement having been made that they were unnecessarily detained in the Retreat, we have drawn up the following.

John Fowler was admitted into the Retreat in the 3rd month 1850, in a state of mental imbecility & excitement accompanied with a severe bodily illness, the consequence of Rheumatic Fever. At this period, his state of mind was attended with great restlessness, depression of spirits, suspiciousness, sullenness & introversion,

2/ & on one occasion he stole away to his bedroom & attempted suicide. His state remained without much alleviation until the end of the 5th mo: when he experienced an attack of vomiting & exhaustion, which were followed by increased prostration & derangement of the health, so that he was confined to bed in a very critical condition for a period of five months. When again able to come down stairs in a state of health, though improved, still very feeble, his mind exhibited a corresponding degree of imbecility. He was anxious, timid, fidgetty & incredulous. The memory much impaired. He required a repeating of the same thing over & over again before he could embrace the idea implied, & he could not rest in the day time until he had procured a written note that he would be allowed to sleep in the same bed again at night. At the same

time he was incapable of applying himself to any occupation – took no interest in reading, or any other pursuit – in fact, his state was one of partial dementia. This was his condition during all the time that Francis Hunt was acquainted with him. In the course of the next 18 months, several of the peculiarities first described gradually wore off. His mind attained to a certain degree of strength, beyond which it appeared incapable of advancing. His entire want of application to any pursuit whatever, his indecision & helplessness & the general weakness of his mental powers remained. The medical officers held several consultations on the propriety of trying the effect of a change of circumstances & of throwing him to some extent upon his own resources. To discharge him as being of sound mind was out of the question, & his removal from the Institution was only looked

4/ to as an experiment that might possibly be beneficial. After frequent deliberations, they finally concluded it might be expedient to give him a trial at home, & have advised his Friends to arrange for carrying it into effect.

The Case of Daniel Richardson is one in which the Insanity was of a more chronic kind & was subject to more or less complete intermissions.

D. Richardson came to the Retreat in the first month 1850. He had had several attacks of Insanity, the first occurring at an early age, & it was supposed that he had never been free from delusions since that period. About 3 months before his admission here, he was sent to a private Asylum, where he remained about two months, & was then liberated under the idea that he was recovered. On his return

home, however, it was immediately appa=
rent that he was not now improved. He en=
tertained the belief that persons were conspir=
ing against him, & that some dreadful ruin
was impending over him. Under these delusions
he refused to attend to his business - spent his
time over the fire-side in gloomy foreboding
muttering his complaints & grievances. He was
thought take suicidal, & had been heard to say
that "a razor would end all." He was brought
to the Retreat a month after leaving the private
Asylum, & he then laboured under the same
train of delusions. He entertained the idea
that conspiracies were in existence against
him, that dreadful things would happen, that
great ruin would be caused to us & the Society
of Friends on his account. He was tormented
by suspicion, & watched with extreme jealousy
the movements of any stranger who came

6 to the House. The Attendants often excited these jealousies, for he thought they were in league with the party who he imagined to exist for some dark purpose; & whom he generally designated as that party, & he believed that persons in league with it often gained access to the House during the night. At the time when these feelings were the strongest, he was morose & sullen, his countenance had a suffused & lowering aspect, & a disordered mind was never more clearly depicted than in his face. When these feelings declined, he regained a condition in which he had great control over his actions & expressions, & was extremely cautious of betraying his feelings or exhibiting his delusions. This degree of recovery went so far at times as to give hopes of a real amendment, & on several occasions, the idea of discharging him began to be entertained. Before this was accomplished, however, his

mind relapsed & subsequent to Francis Smith leaving the Establishment in 4th mo: 1851, he experienced a more severe relapse than usual. At a later period the force of these paroxysms began to abate, & he improved so much during the summer of the present year, that the propriety of his discharge was again discussed, & after much consideration, I at recommended the Committee to discharge him. He would have left the Establishment ere this, had not a severe illness delayed his departure.

The third case is that of William Lamb. He was admitted into the Retreat in 10th mo 1846, for the second time. He originally came in 1843 having previously spent a few weeks in a private Asylum. His medical attendant describes him as having been during the greater part of his life "capricious, uncertain & irritable in his conduct." He associated with young men of

Wild character, was intemperate, passionate, incapable of controlling his impulses, addicted to practical jokes, & eventually he committed actions which alarmed his parents for their safety. When this crisis arrived, he was sent to a private Asylum, & a few weeks afterwards to the Retreat. Soon after his arrival, he addressed letters to his friends in which he alludes to his conduct in the following terms: "When I think of the folly of some of my past actions, I have reason to be thankful that I was not led so far astray as to have committed any action which would forever have extinguished all my hopes of happiness in life, & also permanently have deprived me of any hopes of liberty, or perhaps have driven me to worse fate, if possible. I do not think that I should have so completely lost all command over myself (though I had done so to a great degree) as to have injured the person of another, much less have deprived any one of life; though one does not know

what one's passions may lead him to when in his madness he surrenders all other influence. It was therefore wise in my parents (as prevention is better than cure) to take such steps as should prevent my doing them mischief; it was not unreasonable that they should be subjected to annoyance as they had been for some time past."

Under the salutary restrictions of his new abode, he soon manifested an improvement in his habits, & spent his time in useful occupation. About the end of the year he was thought to have undergone a change of mind, & was discharged from the Institution.

Soon after leaving the Establishment, it became obvious that his apparent recovery was fallacious, & he relapsed into his former conduct. He manifested great waywardness, vacillation, & fondness for practical jokes. His language was profane & mixed with oaths, & he had become negligent in

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his person & dress. After spending the greater part of the interval in London & elsewhere, he came to reside with his parents, with whom he spent about 3 months leading a strange & what he calls a recluse sort of life, hardly ever going out except to avoid society. His spirits were generally either too low or too high, & he had a habit of talking much to himself especially when in bed. He habitually spoke of his father even in his presence in a disrespectful way. He bought pistols, secreted them in the roof of the house, & on several occasions threatened the lives of his parents, & particularly of his mother.

These symptoms appeared amply sufficient to justify the step taken towards the close of 1844 of explaining him under the care of the Trust, & we think after what had occurred subsequent to his discharge, it would require a long period of approbation after his apparent recovery before it would be prudent to restore him to the enjoyment of ordinary life, where in all human probability he would

relapse

into a dangerous, perhaps criminal course of conduct.

We think William's present condition of mind affords ample evidence of the undesirableness of withdrawing him from the care & protection he now enjoys. He betrays nothing wh. can be called an intellectual delusion, his intellect being remarkably acute in certain directions (at the same time he is quite incapable of appreciating the truths of Religion.) He manifests however along with this acuteness of intellect, infirmities of mind wh. seem incompatible with the enjoyment of an independent station in life. Very trivial occurrences upset his equilibrium, such as petty annoyances from the other patients, or very small disappointments in his expectations. When these occur he becomes quiet, speaks with incoordinate emotion & embarrassed gesticulation, is nervous & disproportionately agitated. At these times a slight

12/ provocation will induce violence, he has struck at his fellow patients. He is grievously annoyed, has given occasion to many disturbances because one of his associates sometimes kneels down before partaking of his breakfast, he refuses to attend the meetings held here on the Sabbath days because a patient occasionally quotes a passage of Scripture. It is not the Scripture wh offends him, but the patient's quoting it, he absents himself because he cannot restrain his indignation. During the greater part of last year he spent two evenings a week with a Mathematical patient who resides in a different department of the Institution. One evening some difference arose between them & Mr Lamb has never forgiven the offence. This illustrates what in our opinion forms one of the morbid features of his mind — a persistence in a spirit of revenge & hatred towards any one who may have once incurred them, the one day ack=

resolved that he treasured up in his mind whatever might serve to gratify these feelings, take ready whenever occasion might arise for using it. We may easily conceive to what lengths such feelings might lead him, if he were unmoved from all restraint & check. With the exception of these efforts he is very fond, he never takes part in any amusement, & has always refused to join any party to an excursion or trip of pleasure, & has manifested considerable annoyance at being asked to do so. The singular condition of his mind is also shewn in his preference for dark, dull weather. The gloom of obscure places is congenial to him, he feels more sympathy with the sombre & depressing aspects of nature. He prefers a walk in the middle of the night to one in the day-time, & refers with pleasure to the time when he used to rise from his bed, creep silently downstairs shoes in hand, & steal this gratification while

 his parents slept. Of reverence, as of human affection he appears to be nearly destitute. His mind seems engrossed in the pursuit of selfish pleasures, & he appears to make no attempt to correct his weaknesses or to control his propensities. Though he has on several occasions expressed a desire to be liberated from restraint he entertains well grounded misgivings as to the result of such a step.

After this narrative, much in the way of comment does not seem to be required from us. The first two cases are so clear, that they need no illustration beyond a simple statement of the facts, & we shall therefore close this report with a few observations connected with the third case. Mr Lamb belongs to a class of insane persons, of whom there is unfortunately a large number, who, whilst preserving to a great degree the integrity of the understanding, yet betray in their conduct so much infirmity

of minded, so great a want of control over their passions & impulses, & such a deficiency of judgement, that whilst they are obviously insane, it is not unfrequently difficult to decide when the point is reached at wh. Society should be protected, & themselves guarded from their own foibles, at the sacrifice of their liberty. It is a fact well known to all who are conversant with these subjects, that there are many persons who are always insane except when in an Asylum, & they are chiefly persons of this class. These individuals may spend considerable periods in the precincts of an Asylum where a whole=some restraint is put upon their peculiar tendencies without very conspicuously betraying their mental infirmities, & the strongest proof of the benefit they receive, is shown in the correctness of their deportment, & the apparent soundness of their minds. It must be remem=

bered that repression of symptoms is not cure, if the general arrangements & safeguards of an Asylum can enable patients having these insidious & dangerous forms of insanity to spend their time in calmness & comparatively rational enjoyment, it does not follow on that account that they are fit to be at large. To shew their fitness to return into the world evidence of a different kind is required. This evidence was sought for in the case of Mr. Lamb, when, towards the close of 1843, he appeared to be recovered, & the Institution not wishing to retain him longer than appeared necessary, set him at liberty. With the acquisition of his freedom, his old habits returned. Some exuberance of spirits after a period of restraint might be natural, but if this outburst had been of that nature, it would have spent itself & subsided. But for a period of 3 years, his

strangeness of conduct went on increasing until it gained its acme in threatening the lives of his parents, & the secreting of pistols in the house.

After having therefore thus taken the course we was the most likely to put his apparent recovery to the proof, & with the evidence before us of this experiment continued through a period of three years, & its failure, we consider that we should not be justified in recommending the Committee to discharge him, believing that it would only lead to a repetition of the lesson taught us by his former liberation.

A. S. Beleombe
Visiting Physician to the Retreat
Caleb Williams
Visiting Surgeon to the Retreat
John Kitching
Medical Superintendent of the Retreat.

The Retreat. Hull. 29. 1852.

Report to the
Committee.

Dan'l. Richardson's
Case

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