

Papers relating to Thomas H. Theobald

Publication/Creation

1861-1885

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/ya7jpha6>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution, Non-commercial license.

Non-commercial use includes private study, academic research, teaching, and other activities that are not primarily intended for, or directed towards, commercial advantage or private monetary compensation. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.

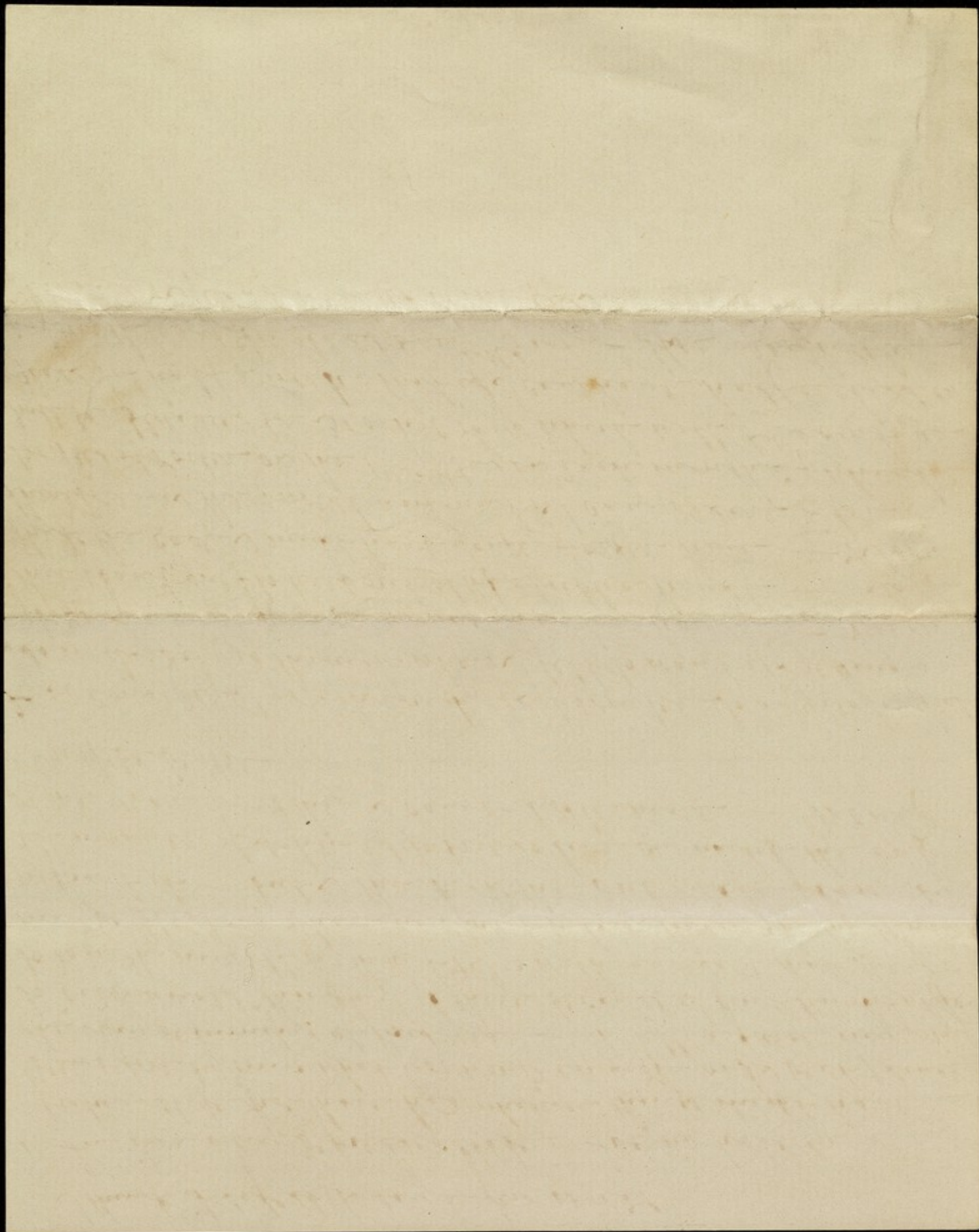


Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

I think it safest to say a few words

1. I'm in a very depressed state. I've no hope for a future state nor have had (whatever things might have been before by doing what God would consider one's best) since the very beginning of this year. It's all a farce my going to "ordinances" though I go there because I don't know what to do with myself without it & I go with a desire that they may be blessed & I have no spirit to live through the winter without it - but I think it's the only safe plan by all manner of schemes to try to live on until the end of the year & then I can do little more - Would it not be better

2. I consider I got through last winter to a great extent so well as I did through when I felt to want it getting a glass of ale or porter at the public house - Now I don't want to keep out of the public house - So if that's the case I must have some porter here - I wish therefore at the lowest amount I can desire - for 3 bottles of Porter on the 1st & 7th day in each month - which will be blessed for 31 or 30 days which will be about a glass & a half a week - that is I can have half a glass on a fourth day & a glass on 7th day - It's a very little demand & I can't well do with less.



John Kitching.

1 mo 1861.

I wish very particularly
in as few words as possible to say a few
things & for thee to oblige me by reading them
& with a desire that they may be copied out
& if what I desire is granted I feel quite
certain everything will be well at last.
And this letter is chiefly to say that I am
a very poor thing in bodily health & a
very guilty thing in spiritual health &
am not prepared to die & therefore must
beg & do beg very earnestly that thou wilt
endeavour to keep me alive & in such
bodily health as to be free from any organic
bodily disease until the end of another
spring & summer — that is to the end of
the 9th mo 1861.

Long life is not desirable at a Lunatic
Asylum & if "the object of life" is not obtained
by then I will be willing to take my
chance of anything. — When my

brother Joseph was here he said
"We wish thy happiness Thomas both in
this world & the next —" And if the
blessing of Heaven is held out to a
person & he won't hold out his hand to take
it it's his own fault isn't it? To which
he made me say Yes. — And if I only
do my best as is my absolute duty to lay
hold of every help which God & nature
put into ones way" — I feel quite sure
all will be well at last "both in this world
& the next" — And as I told my brother
that I believe $\frac{3}{4}$ of my ailments have
been caused by trouble of mind for want
of heavenly good. But the worst of it
is if the favour of God has not been obtained
before the winter it is almost impossible
to obtain it during the winter time —
And I do desire for the sake of the soul
(I am only just 27 years of age) that
thou wilt let me have every thing that

is needful to keep me in pretty good
health until the 30th of the 9th mo 1861.

J. H. Shobale

P.S. If I should think it needful to
wear again a handkerchief round ones
mouth. I'll must allow it for the reason
above stated - as the purpose intended
has been the same as some persons moving
to a warmer climate - or wearing
a respirator

I find that a sea breeze & a change generally
does me so much good that I am looking
forward to going to Hull by the "Vivian"
soon after the 14th of the 2nd mo. - as a gift
from my brother & sister M. Burne
I suppose that we have Robt Bayley brought up
into our gallery in the place of Wilson because he is not a Whistler

I should be much obliged by
thy reading this & carrying it out

Thos. Bickney

3rd mo 29. 1842.

To Kitching There are several things I wish to
speak to thee about & will put them down (1) I wish
thee to look at my trousers - I have not been accustomed
to wear patched trousers, nor others here in the gallery
& I have now none looking respectable but one pair
(that a new one) & that not exactly to W^m Wood's own
satisfaction - It was bought too cheap only 4/- & paid
by me (the beginning of this month) & I think next month
being another quarter I had better have another pair
so as to have two that are fit to be seen (so much as
I go out) & keep this cheap new pair for best. W^m Wood
is very sorry that I bought them he thinks they will
soon wear through they are too cheap to be good - &
I think so too. That is if I take them into every day
wear I am afraid they will wear through at the knee
in a very few months as a cheap pair I had once before
wore through in less than four months. So I think
the most economical plan would be (as they are
a pretty pattern) to keep them for best & so by only wearing
them on 1st days they may last for a year or more pretty
good. - And get next quarter (4th mo) a pair of the light
kind viz - a pair of very thick hard trousers (cloth not
less than 6/- per yard) like the last which wore for every
day wear at 6/3 per yard for more than 12 mos without
coming through at the knee - I am very particular about
the cloth & like to go & choose the cloth myself & could meet
W^m Wood at the shop on a 7th day morning as heretofore - &
get a pair as described - not shaggy or bluish or brownish
or liver coloured trousers (for I don't like these colours or
shaggy cloth -

(2) I must from pure necessity ask thee to try what thee
can to keep me in tolerable health until this year -

is over - There is absolute need for it & therefore I ask
it - "My reasons could not well be stronger" - because
in truth I'm not prepared for anything else - It has
been my own fault but not now - There is no delusion
about my having very poor health - I only wish others
were as poorly as I am & then they'd believe it. There is
as they said some time ago a tenderness in the spine
& no delusion about my back at times aching very
much indeed - If they remember about 4 years ago when
it was so very troublesome I said "Is there anything
that will do it good?" - And they said "I think a plaster
would do it good" & ordered me one - A long one but not
quite so wide as the ones I have had lately - Well that
kind of plaster viz a long & broad one (to fit the back) of
Robinson only has done me a great deal of good indeed
& I have always found out a return of the uncomfortable
weakness to some extent when the old plaster has
got worn out & so have asked for a new one - But I
certainly am concerned at my stopping the usual plan
of a long & broad plaster the other day for a short one
after having worn a long one for more than 4 years.
- It is but to be expected that I should feel it so sensitive
as I am - However I will give it a fair trial - & then if
it does not answer so well as what I have been accustomed
to - I must request they will let me have again what I
have been accustomed to for so long & what has served
me so well - (I have taken the measurement of the
short one compared with the last & I don't know if I can't
fetch up the first original plaster & if so they would see
that the original one of my own ordering was a good deal
longer than this short one) - I may keep me alive
in tolerable health for safety's sake for another 9 mos
to the end of this year - & then they may let me take my

chance for time - what is called - Eternity - If I should want
a large plaster as heretofore why I should only want one
in the 4th mo, one in the 7th mo & one in the 10th mo, only three more
one side plaster oval in 5, 8, & 11th mos, & some Linseed Oil to
keep me alive & pretty well this year in that way - I will
believe that that remarkable sermon of Williams's of 19th mo
1852 will be fulfilled in me - "If a faint gleam of hope is
only given thee that those offers of God's terms of grace which
thou hast rejected will again be given thee in a week or a
month or a few months" - As regards the plaster & perspiration
I can say the fault with me is there is too much a tendency
in me to over perspiration & I take medicine on purpose
to check it.

(3) I have told thee before I do not like to be taunted about
being lazy & doing no work for I am sure I would do it
if it yielded me any pleasure or satisfaction but it is
unfortunately only irritation, sets me all of a shake
as it were & I don't like to be taunted about it by thy
wife or any one, nor yet to be told such lies as thy wife
made guilty of the other day when she tried to taunt me
about being lazy & saying as an excuse "thou art in
robust health" - An accused lie & nothing else & the
person who said so was nothing but a liar for there is
no one with such defective health in the gallery as I
have & no one in the gallery whom I would not willingly
change places with as regards health. I even think
I would change with old Knight for he's tougher than
I am. - Nor yet for such a speech to be made as
she made the other day about the Library Sofa when she
must have known she was saying an untruth when she
said "I think it would be as well to have this Sofa moved
away - it isn't used much" - It is used a very great deal
I thought to have known it or supposed so when she

Cover gets so dirty from constant use as to have to be washed
every 3 months. It's a little comfort we have had now for
4 years & I should wish to make a great stir to prevent
its being removed if there was any chance of it. It is used
not only by myself to advantage but also very much by
Holtzway & Potter & Fox & Harris & almost every one that
frequents the room - including Mason uses it more or less.
It is very convenient - it isn't a proper thing here
for people to torment us merely because they think they
have the power of doing it. Holtzway certainly said afterwards
I expect the sign it merely to see what he'd say - As regards
some things those words of W. Allen are of great force - "If
we can but be favoured to build on the one sure foundation
& feel that we are on it how little shall we care for the
opinions entertained of us by our fellow mortals."

4) I mentioned in my last letter home that
I had felt to want a change lately as much as ever
did & to have something fresh to think about & do me good
in every way & I should try to go down with Maurice Holtzway
to Kingston on Hull when he went to see the Jews for
which he wants to do & we had been talking about it &
proposing the 8th Day the 11th of the 4th mo, as the Steamer
then will not leave Hull till 10 o'clock the next day
he wants the following morning to be at Hull before
the 8th Day Evening & if not then he must wait until
fortnight later the 25th - & if I went I should not expect
to go out again for more than 3 mos. that is not until after
the 15th of the 7th mo - as we had not done such a thing yet
we have had a party down to Kingston the last two years
in the Spring by the Steamer. Holtzway is quite willing to
have me with him. Thos Hodgson wants to go with him too.
If he goes he would want a promise from me that I do

Dr. Kitching







11 mo 3. 1862

Dr. Kitching

I shall be very glad when thee will oblige me & others as well through me by removing that unpleasant & injurious draught in the Library through the great air holes called Ventilators by replacing them by panes of glass the same as in an ordinary parlour. My parlour for instance. I want to be in the Library in the same comfort as an ordinary parlour where there are in the winter neither the doors left open nor a draught from so called Ventilators to let in cold or damp air. The subject had been on my mind during the whole of the Spring & Summer & I have deferred the Winter because of the trouble I was afraid it would give me — Thee promised to take the matter into consideration & I am sure thee wouldn't like things as they are thyself who is in good health which I am not. And I have no objection whatever to a substitute by putting the Library in the same position as the Dining Room by having the grating over the door opened — but as thee said complaint had arisen from the draught from there — I asked thee the reason why? &

satisfied that the wind from the open
bed room ^{window} opposite — Therefore to prevent that
I say please to order Williamson to put a board
against the inside of the grating of Fox's bedroom
opposite to confine the wind from the open window
to his bedroom — & then open the grating over
the Library door & the place will be exactly on
the same footing as the Dining Room — the air
being exactly the same that comes into each &
nobody finds fault not even myself of the grating
over the Dining Room door — I have mentioned
the subject to Mr Hollaway who sits near the Grange
He said he & others had been complaining of it
& he had written about it & I could not have made
a more sensible application, — he would support
me in all that I had applied for — By giving
orders for this to be done soon you will oblige
me for I can not sit long in the room as it is

J. H. Thrope

et
d
m
m
—
—
L
tuy
to
up
—
se
L
—
—
to

Dr. Kichung

~~~~~



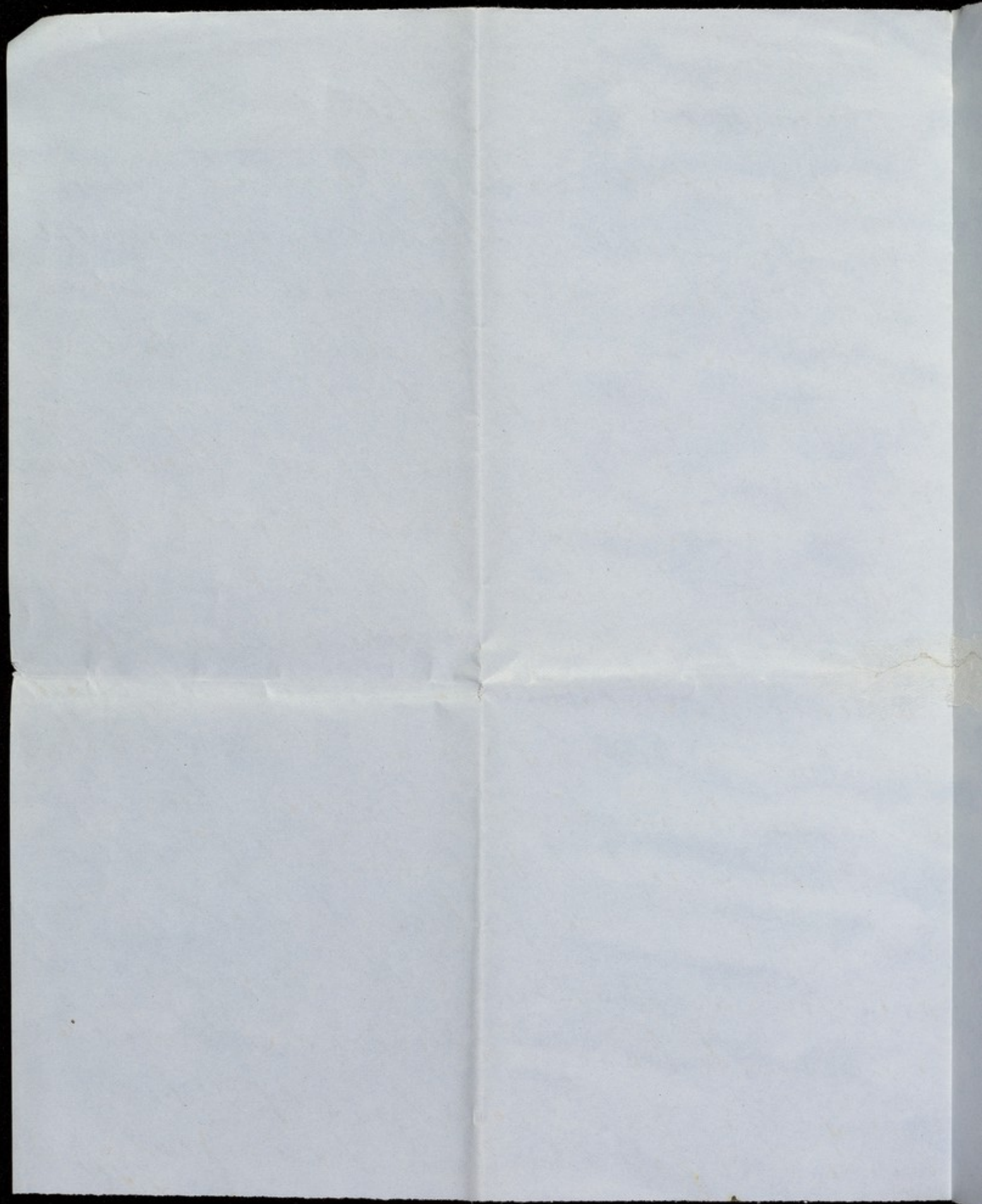


To Kitching

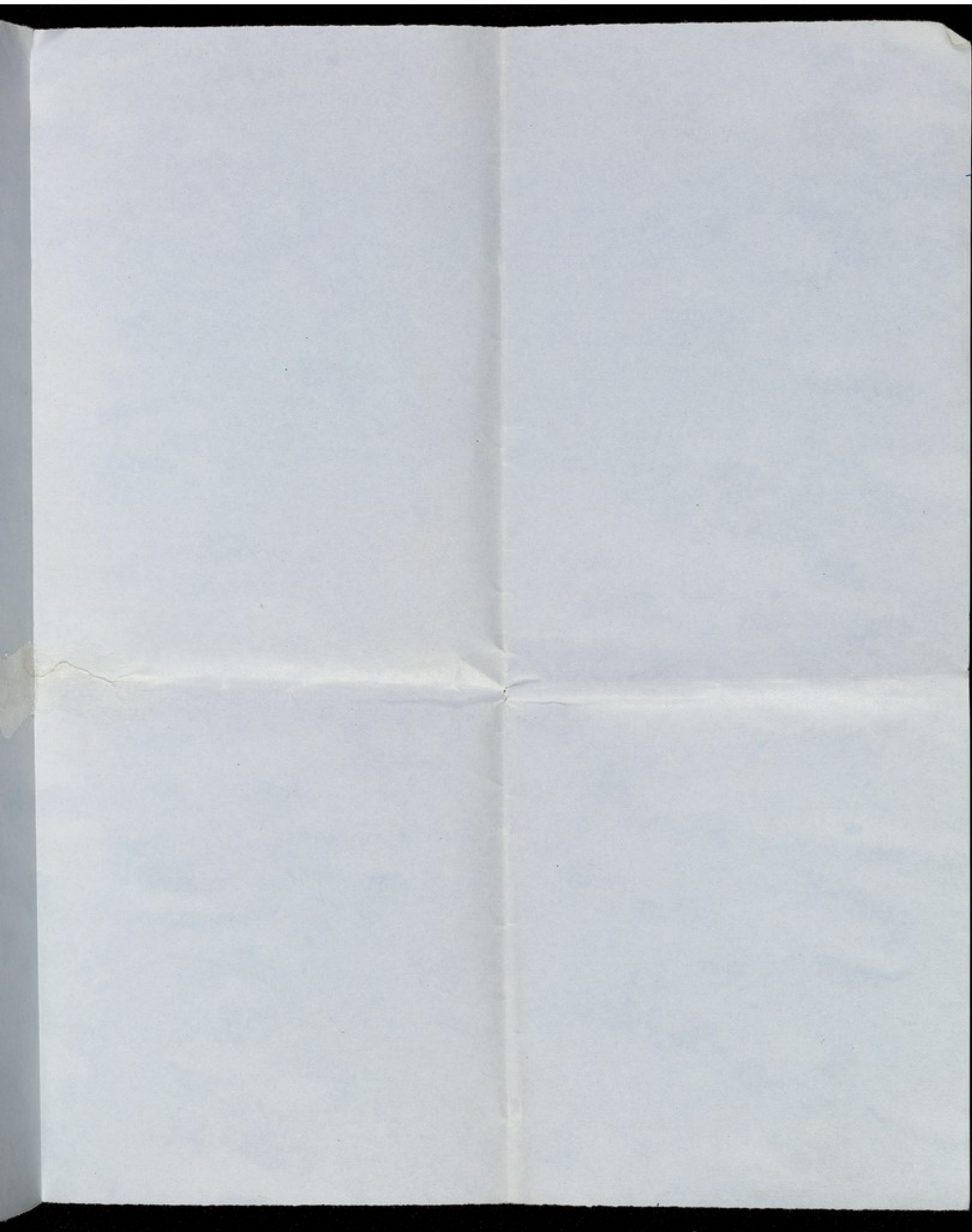
Two or three Facts

Yesterday morning abt 9 There was a North  
Wind blowing & the Bath Room Window open  
just 1/2 open & I had found out the wind  
on my head so I asked Holman, to lie  
down on the sofa, without telling him why  
he cried out, "oh its dreadful, there's quite  
a hurricane I can't bear it" & moved away.  
— And about an hour after he tried it again  
without my asking him, he cried out "Oh  
its dreadful I really can't stand it, wrapped  
up about the head as I am" & moved away.  
I was greatly inclined to request thee to  
come there & feel it, but I didnt like to  
bother thee, — I feel quite that if thee  
knew the annoyance (& I think injury it  
is) thee would have it altered as I proposed.  
I've spoken to Williamson abt it & he  
says he'll do it as soon as he has orders to do it.  
J.H.S.

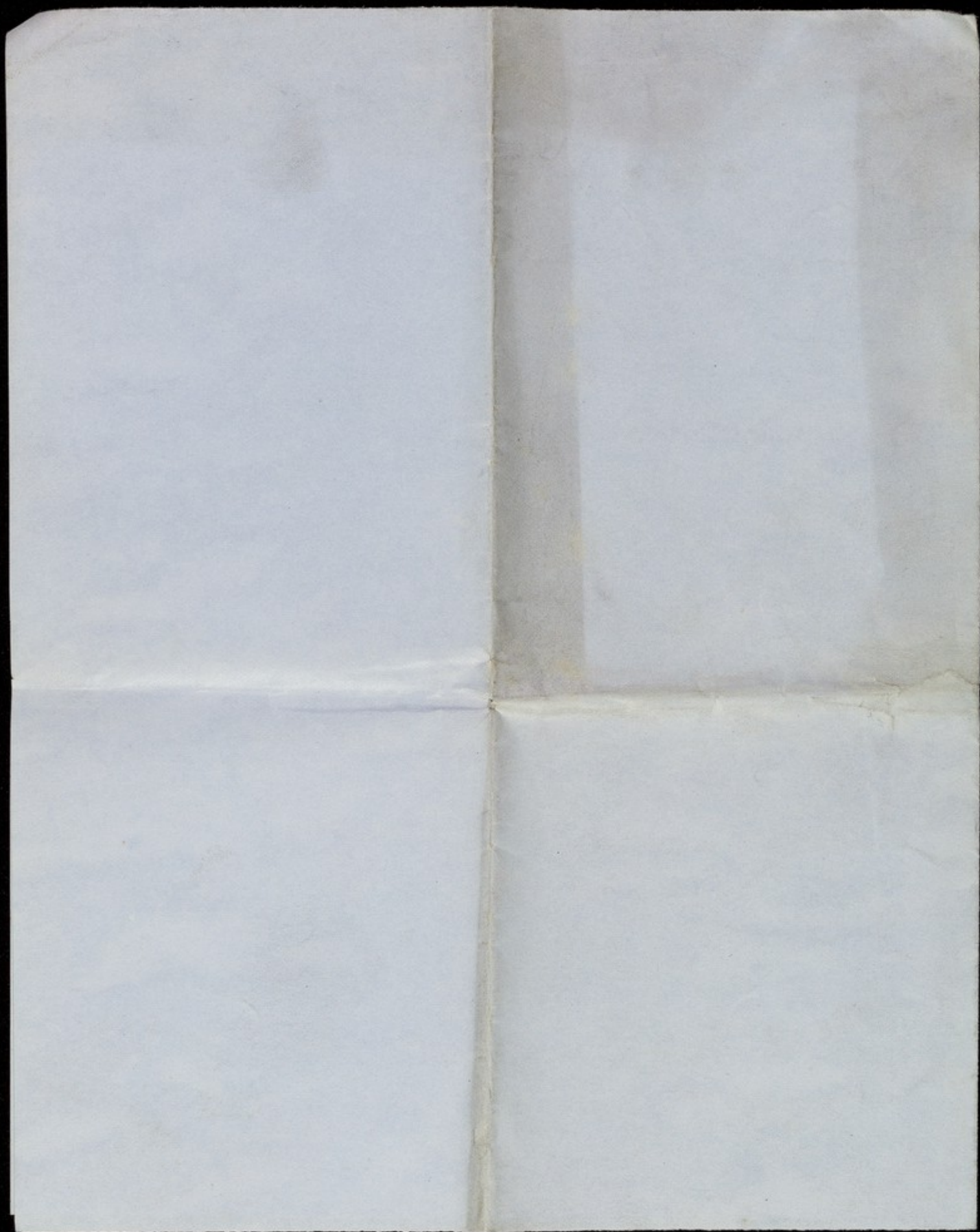














(Dorby 3 Sept 1855.

Dr. Baker

Dear Sir

Thomas Theobald has  
written to me suggesting (I take it)  
that some of "your family" inclu-  
ding himself should visit Mat-  
lock by a cheap trip. Such a  
thing was thought of while I  
was with you, and I expressed  
my willingness, if it occurred  
after I left; to do all I could to  
make the excursion enjoyable.  
Please read my few lines of reply  
to him, enclosed herewith; and  
I hope it may be agreeable to



you to hand them to him.

There are probably some, unknown to me, to whom such a thing would be a pleasure. Possibly enough could be found with attendants to make a railway party at cheap fares by ordinary trains. To leave the train at Cornford would be best, and a fair notice should be given me.

We have cheap trips every Saturday during this month, but I am not sure if they continue after.

We unite in kind wishes.

Yours Obediently

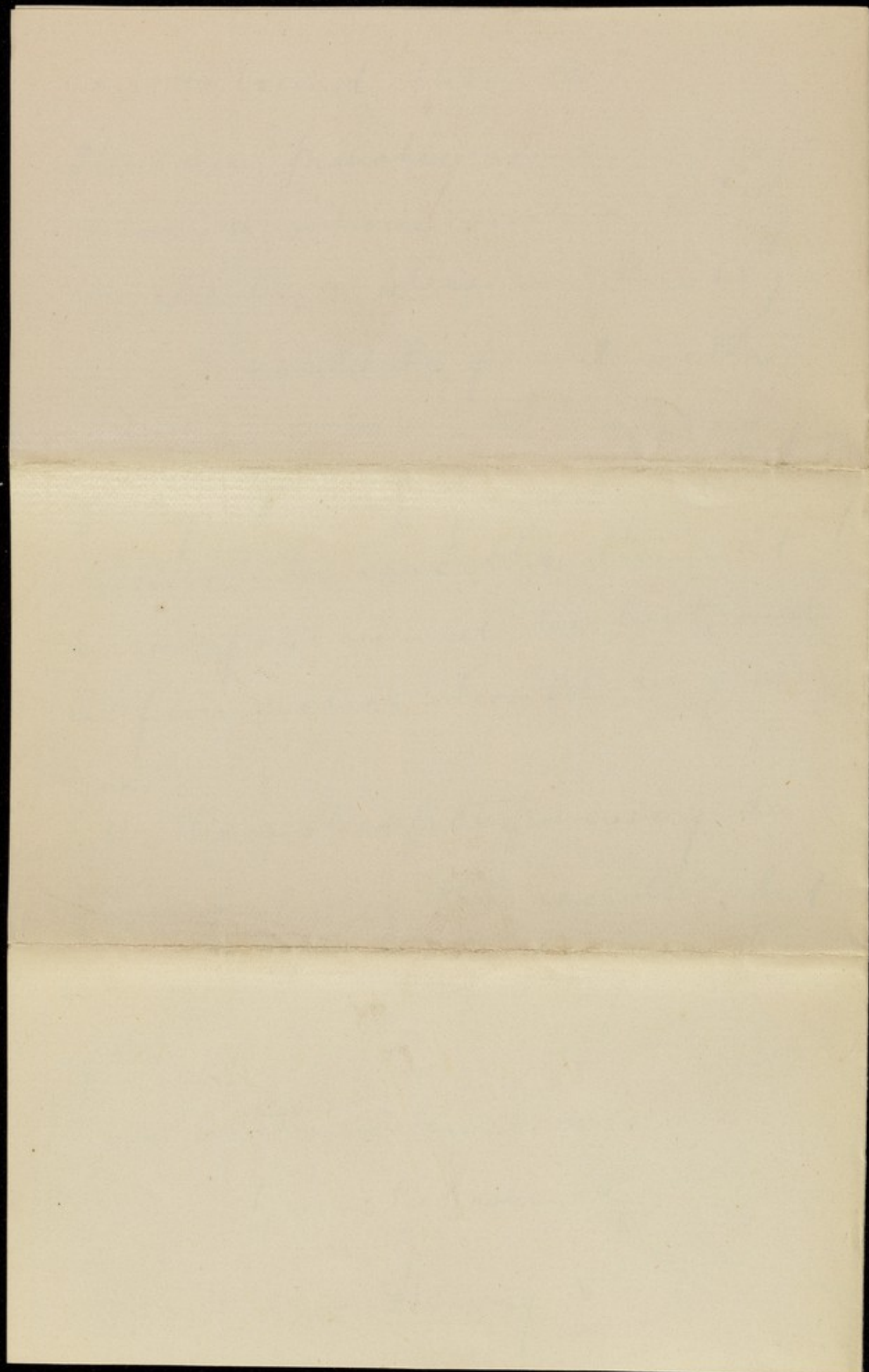
Henry Steer.



2

4







Derby 3 Sept 85.

Thomas Theobald

Dear Friend

It is kind to have remembered the fine piece, and to thee and my friend Mr. Fox (for copying it,) I am very much obliged.

I am writing to Dr. Balser about the possibility, with his permission; of making up a party for Mallocks. I would meet you, and do my best to make the day agreeable. In all seasons the place is beautiful; and now; more than ever,



worthy a visit. I am glad  
Scarborough was in measure en-  
joyed. The pretty valley thou  
mentions I well remember.

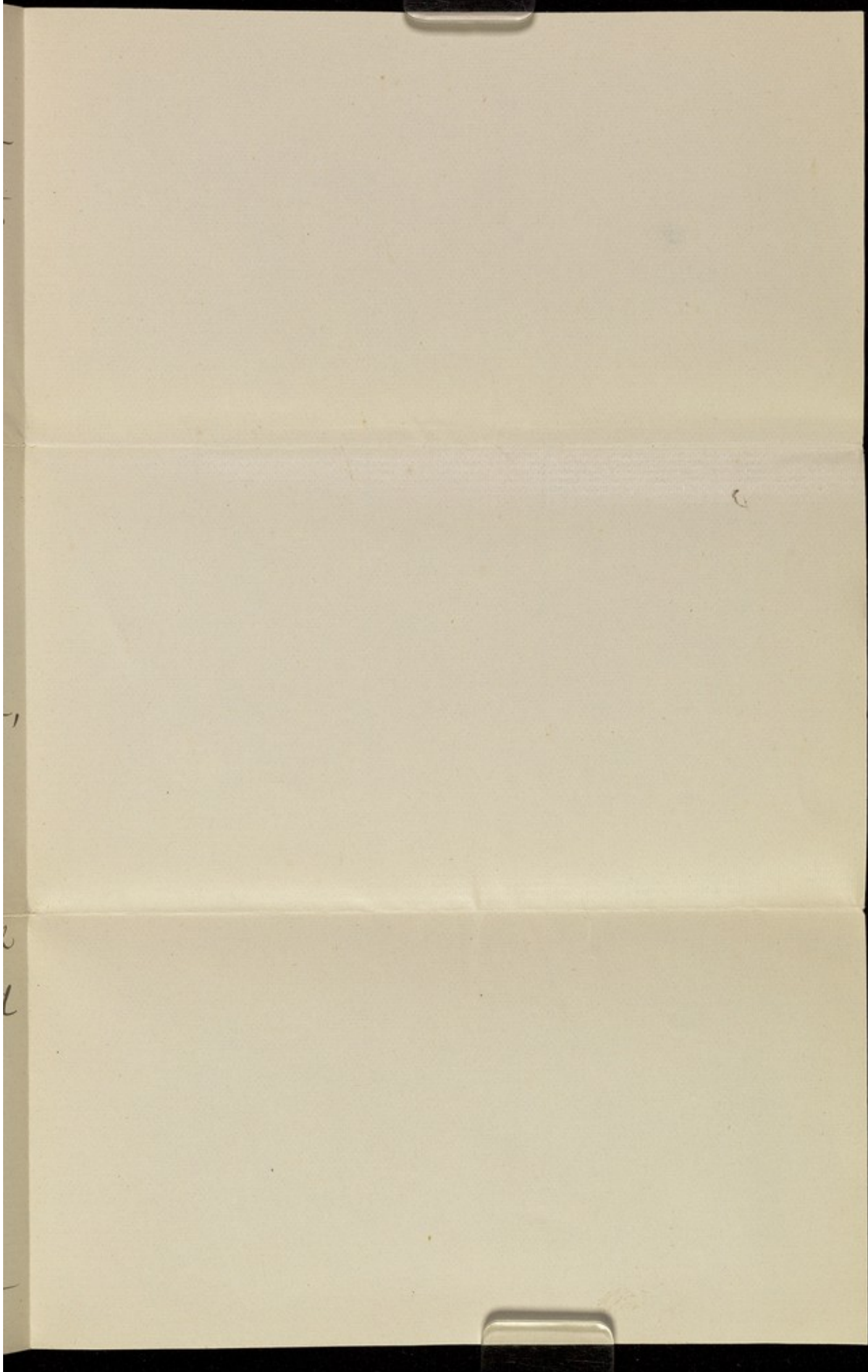
We are all fairly well; the  
children soon going back to  
school, and my wife to Buxton  
for a few days. My only sea  
this year was one day at  
Skegness. I will not say more,  
as if I meet you at Mallock;  
we can have a chat.

With kind regards to Frederick  
Willmot, Mr. Fox, thyself, and  
whenever due, I am,

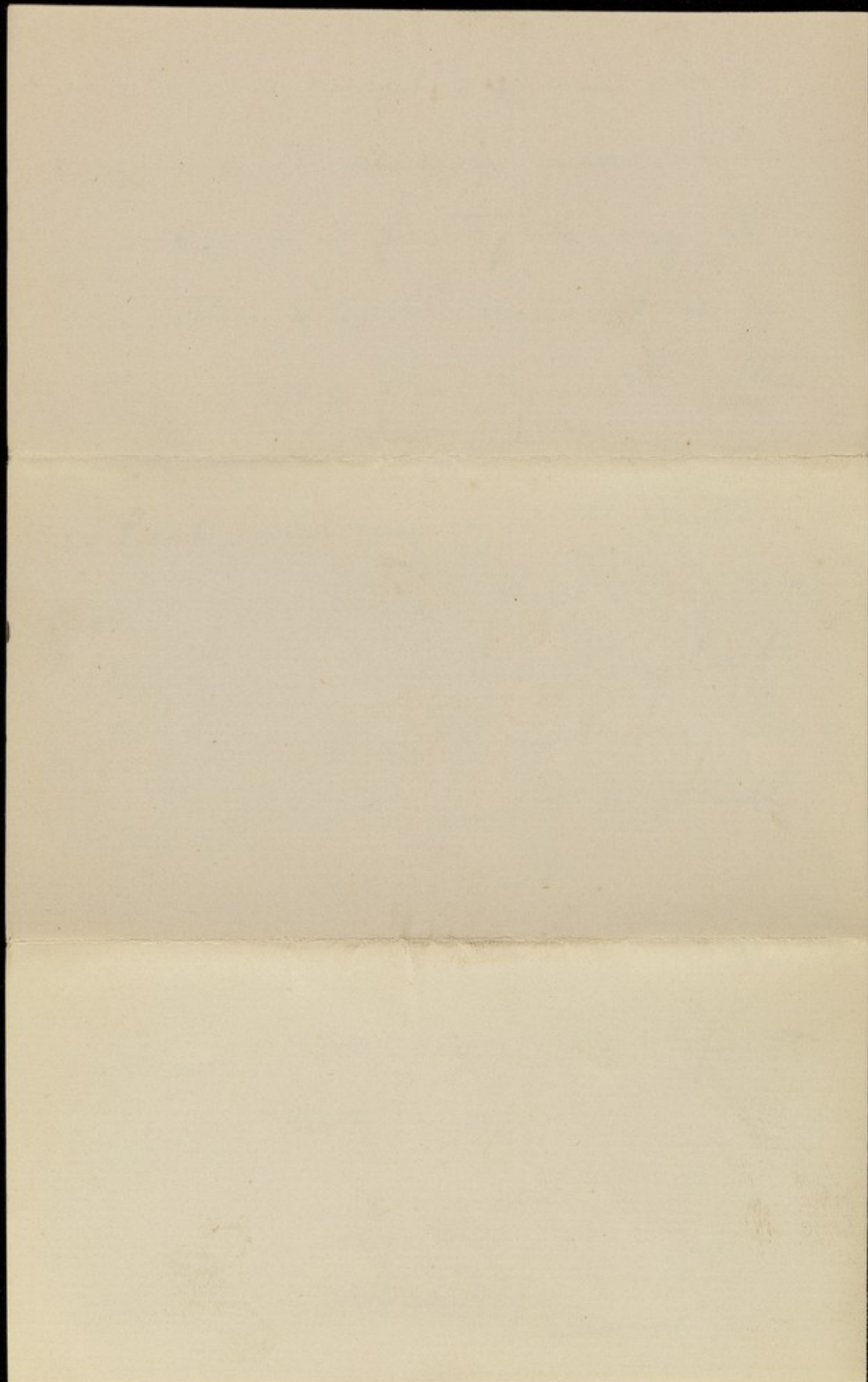
Thine Sincerely,

Henry Steer











Thomas Theobald.

---

Kindly favored }  
by Dr. Baker }











Dear Brother E. Simpson  
I shall be much obliged if thee will be kind enough before I <sup>try</sup> to let me try one of thy coats, & if it fits me to allow me to keep the rest off thy 1<sup>st</sup> days sandwich as I do not like that I guess should see me with the same coat on on 1<sup>st</sup> days as on working days. I wish to put down some things that thee may understand & I am inclined to address them to thee because as from thy first I was led from an expression of things to think more as a confidant in thee than in any other brother. Joseph has twice told me if not oftener that ~~me~~ I was not wanted at his house because there was no more work to be done at his house than was sufficient to keep his young men employed & that therefore I ought to be obliged to him for my being there. Now whether he means this or not I do not know but it has seemed to me deceptive. Thee was kind enough to say that was willing to have me on certain conditions & likewise declared thou expected I should be more comfortable here than at Bath. Now the very last time I was at Wether my Father stated (when I said I was more willing to be at Devizes than Bath) that he did not mind where I was so that I was either at Devizes or Bath but he hoped I should be willing to go back to Bath for a week or however short the time might be until arrangements could be made for my going to Devizes. Now I have not been comfortable at Bath & if Joseph is correct the truth is his assertion he need have no wish to have me back to render him assistance. Now as I have been willing to make a revelation which Dr. Fort seemed knowing enough to ascribe the disease I am suffering from almost entirely to I cannot bear that that should be misused in a disagreeable way to one you had the making the revelation was not making things worse but should be the means of setting a right state of health by Physicians means. Now one of the 1<sup>st</sup> questions which Dr. Fort put to me was did thee you have been suffering from affect your spirits. If he is right in the cause of thy disease this thing has affected my spirits ever since remembrance has been mine for the cause he condemns has been gone on as I say ever since I have had any knowledge of myself I can hardly be called a sin ~~because~~ to any extent because I have never felt more ~~cond~~ or so much condemnation on that point as on other transgressions. And because this thing has not been a direct injury to others & how did I know it was to myself. Now I shall only make declarations ~~thee~~ with the understanding that that the if may not be used in a disagreeable or unpleasant or unkind way to myself. For it was only with the hope that that thee might by a right understanding at all events with the Physicians that I was willing to make known what I have with respect to what the Physician calls the Cause of thy my disease. Now this thing which Dr. Fort condemns may have been the chief cause of all this I will allow & the battle to overcome it is very considerable. Now Dr. Fort's words to me were. "Now you are not well, by keeping to the direction I give you you will get better, but your recovery will be slow. In the 1<sup>st</sup> place he tells me I am not



well & that recovery will be slow even by attending to his  
directions. Therefore it is wrong for those with whom I am  
to consider me as well & therefore as with those who are not  
well kindness & encouragement is necessary. Now although  
those with whom I may wish me to get well yet it is of  
use unless I myself wish it & determine in wishing it  
to fight out as hard a battle as any one that can be fought.  
Because as long as a persons mind is happy any bodily suffering  
can be endured & the greatest bodily sufferings have been endured.  
But when mind & body both is shattered then is as severe a trial  
as anything can be. Now this I know very well that in my  
case I have suffered in mind quite as much as I have in  
body so much so that from the middle of the 4<sup>th</sup> of my last  
ill till the 1<sup>st</sup> of the 2<sup>nd</sup> mo 1855 nothing has been any real gratification  
or pleasure to me. Now I will preface the chief of what I  
have to say with this that I have been more uncomfortable  
in the shop of Joseph at Bath than at any previous time  
of my life. I have to complain of Henry Thobald not being  
at all pleasant & I have seemed unable to keep any peace  
with the ways & manners of Sarah Ann Thobald. ~~I have been~~  
~~in the shop of Joseph at Bath than at any previous time~~  
~~of my life. I have to complain of Henry Thobald not being~~  
~~at all pleasant & I have seemed unable to keep any peace~~  
~~with the ways & manners of Sarah Ann Thobald.~~  
I know this that Henry Thobald said  
that she had not been near so agreeable for a long time past  
as at one time she was. Not but what I should have wished  
to have been reconciled to the ways at Bath if strong enough for  
the work & treated with kindness. Now it is a source of  
considerable satisfaction to me to know that Dr. Forster  
Physician has said there is no disease of the heart for as I told  
him at times before he saw me on any excitement I had felt  
such pains in my heart that I have been afraid of the time  
of the last emotion & so much so as to be afraid almost to think  
a thought or move a muscle under those pains. Now having  
stated my uncomfortableness at Bath I will just state  
that that all the time I have been here I have had nothing to  
complain of whatever but that I have been treated with as  
much kindness as I have wished for and instead of work  
being otherwise it has been a nothing but pleasure & I  
have wished for more work to do.

Chiefly as regarding being here

I will say that since I have been here I have been more  
comfortable than I have been at Bath Henry at all  
during the last 6<sup>3</sup> years & have had no wish whatever  
to go back to Henley as long as I am as comfortable as I  
have been here.



I can truly say that if I have loved any one I  
have loved George Hooper & Sam<sup>l</sup> & I'll  
ever since I have been here I have been treated  
with as much kindness as I have wished & I can  
truly say I have tried all the while not to give you  
offence in any thing & I believe you can say I  
have not willfully given you offence in scarcely  
any point. What I wish you to understand is  
that I am not afraid of work, nor do I wish  
indulgence but I do require a great deal of  
encouragement & kindness. I know that that  
the battle which you wish me to fight is as hard  
a one as any can be & can only be carried on  
by great encouragement & kindness; <sup>& possibly by persuasion</sup> ~~at this point~~  
therefore I have come to the following determination  
after considerable deliberation that I will <sup>not</sup> ~~not~~ <sup>not</sup> ~~not~~  
abstain from that pernicious practice which  
has become a habit of my life nor attend to  
the rest of the Physicians means for restoration  
to health & that all your money & trouble on  
the point shall be thrown away unless you  
sign a document that until <sup>after</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> take a  
situation I shall be one mo<sup>t</sup> at Bath &  
one mo<sup>t</sup> at Devizes. Viz. that on the first  
of every mo<sup>t</sup> I shall change over from Bath  
to Devizes or Devizes to Bath ~~until~~ until  
the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> of the next mo<sup>t</sup>. And that I will  
not leave Devizes until you or I Theobald  
& C<sup>o</sup> Simpson give me the document signed  
& then I will give you one that I will try  
with all the determination possible to keep  
from the practice alluded to & to perform



all the rest of the Physicians means & c of  
restoration to health. I mean what I  
say I know that nothing but this will enable  
me to fight the battle now will I try  
without. Nothing will dissuade me from  
the determination I have formed & I think  
you need not try to argue me from the  
point.  
I know that nothing but this encouragement will enable me  
to keep the organs for restoration to health.  
In thus changing from Bath to Devices or Devices  
to Bath I do not wish to put you to expense  
but am willing to balk backwards & forwards  
provided I have either carry with me or have  
sent a brown paper parcel of my 1st Day  
Clothes as well as my week day ones for me  
to wear on 1st Days. Signed

JH Theobald

for  
Edw Simpson

The pills I take will only last me till 3 or 4 more,



Jack Frost.







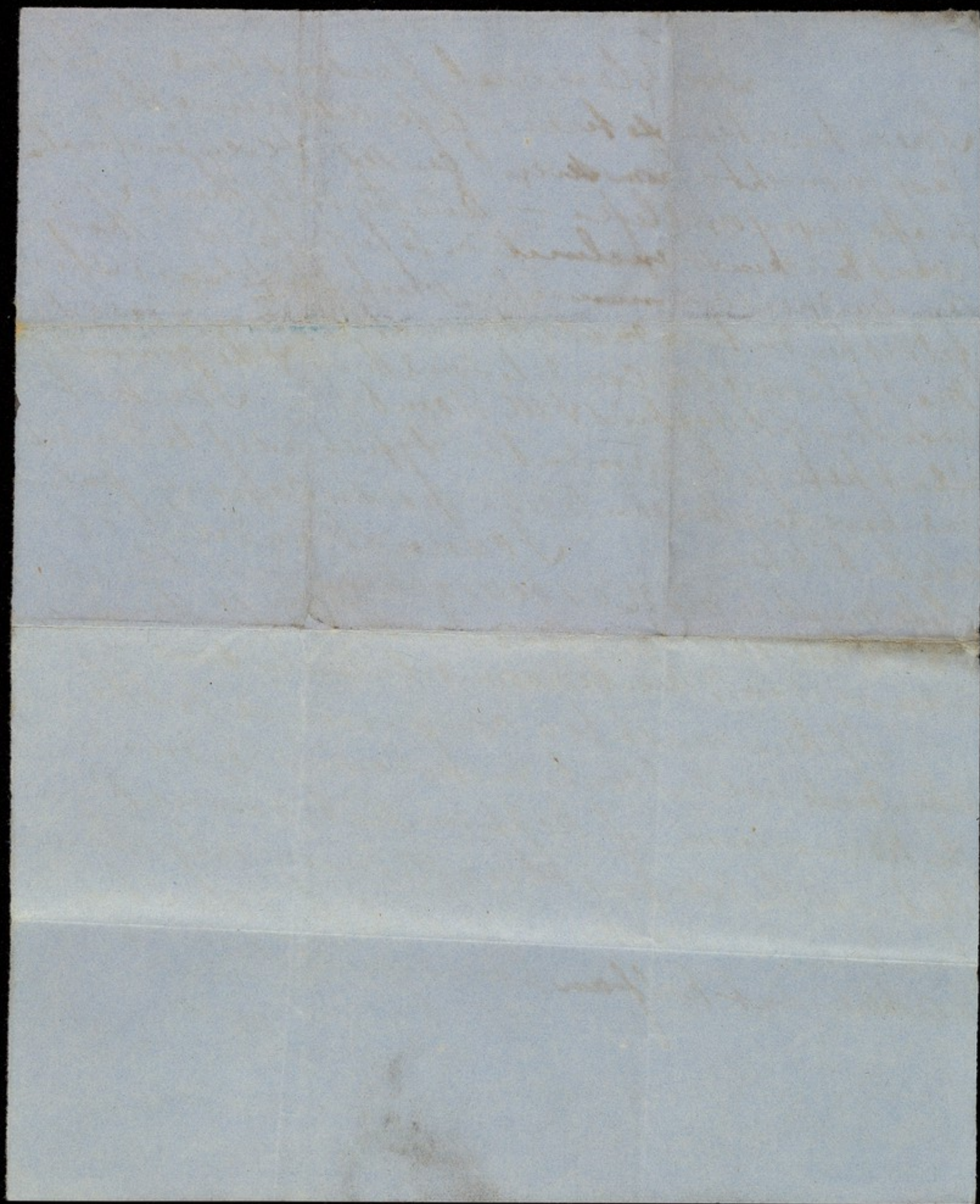




1  
I've told several persons here that  
I never have been so tired of life as during the  
last fortnight (from several causes) & every inclination  
to take away ones life. — And the only thing I  
want to against inclination to live for is that  
Ann Gardner's communication which she said she  
felt it her duty to make to me at E. Dunsdale's  
May by living on come to something & the commu-  
nications of W. Hopkins & M. Hamby. — I'm not  
sent here to be tormented & just as if to torment  
me have the attendants got a noisy canary, put  
into the kitchen — I cannot endure it  
— life must be made as bearable as possible if  
I am to live on — And I wish to tell them  
to remove it into their bedroom, or entirely away.  
— If there must be a compromise for the  
attendants' lives I could make easily endure  
the harmonium if kept in stated hours  
that is in the evening ~~for~~ or afternoon only when  
have done their work. — With this noisy  
bird there is at half an hour's quietness  
y/y/y

If this isn't done quietly, out of self defence I shall  
have to put an end to it myself







Fitching I never before was so oppressed with trouble  
so greatly for so long a period as I have been for the last week  
or 10 days & I ask thee before things should assume what in  
my opinion thee might call a worse state of things to give me  
(though I can hardly expect to get it because I have found so much  
fault of thee, in talking of thee in going out visiting so much  
at friends houses that thee don't give thyself time to see about  
things enough at home) an almost immediate interview with  
thee that is at 3 o'clock or some other time today for from a quarter  
to half an hour at least. I can't wait until the Commissioners  
come. — Thee told me once "If thou hast in future any great  
trouble come & tell me about it" — Ad. Luke said "It is our  
duty to come round to you & talk to you, — to try to soothe you"  
— If I had known then what trouble a little neglect about  
a thing would have given me the most immediate worse part  
of my trouble would then have been endeavored to have been  
prevented ~~at some~~ with perhaps not a word of opposition  
being said in the matter as something in that way has been  
done before in previous years. I want justice. I have  
neither health nor hope & I cannot really bring myself  
to believe that being in Hell could be worse for me than being  
in this place. — but yet I wish to be helped to keep out  
of it a little longer as I ought to be helped to keep out  
of it <sup>at all</sup> longer  
by thee

(This that I have more immediately to speak about  
has no reference at all to a feathered animal)



J. Marshall  
June 9. 1868





D. V. K. (This is ~~not~~ a private communication)  
I have been very poorly & am very poorly & I am  
quite sure I know the cause of it & if really  
seems to be the only politic way of doing things to  
speak of it & try to remedy it by removing it. And  
I'm sorry that the mind should so effect the body for  
evil & I see found thee unwilling to believe it so much  
as I'm sorry is the case. But this <sup>perhaps</sup> ill state of health  
has been brought on by my mind dwelling on some  
unpleasant remembrances or recollections & I fear  
I shall be a long time very unwell unless they are  
erased by what I fear is the only immediate remedy.  
In short words it is this: When asked some time ago by  
Mines if I meant to go to Hull this year I said No - but  
after some time I told Holman who likes to go to Hull  
every spring to see the Jews that I was so exceedingly  
longer to everything seeming more than ever to be  
going against me that I thought I had better go to  
see if that change would do any good. So he jumped  
at it & asked me immediately if we might go & I said  
yes. Well I said nothing to thee about it till the 1st of  
Aug before going & explained that I wished to get a  
bit of sea air & fight off rheumatism & blethorps at (the proper  
cheap way of doing it) then after the expense of £2/2 each  
returning from Grimsby by Steamer. To which, thee  
assented & I thought that Mines understood this too as  
he told me to get everything arranged beforehand. Well



I wished to have Jas Mason but he sent Mines. & when there  
Mines said he couldn't go my arrangements — because  
he had so much business of his own to attend to!! — &  
wanted me to make another arrangement — a very stupid  
affair — & I said that I could enable him to get through  
his important business take a less time — & then he  
said he ~~wouldnt~~ come back by the Steamer because Steamer  
couldn't be depended upon for punctuality — although  
I told him that that was what I still consider in plain  
language a very stupid excuse seeing that I had come  
back by the Steamer three years ago with Gregory when  
there was plenty of time afterwards to get tea &c — When  
he started half an hour later from Grimsby — but  
he wouldn't do it — And he wanted to know if I wouldn't  
go to Hornsea instead — I wasn't willing to give up  
Grimsby & Bleasby as arranged, but on looking for  
the Railway took the charge seemed so high by Railway  
each way that I shrank from the expense (for I am  
continually thinking of the expense I put my friends to)  
& as he was absurdly inexplicable about not coming back  
by the Steamer I humbly assented to go to Hornsea instead  
which was only 1/6 there & back. (I have since found  
that I exaggerated the extra expense about Clitholpes Overs  
& above what was at first agreed to by thee). And by so doing  
has troubled half way round the town. I passed a part  
of the outskirts of Hull which has always with one  
exception been carefully avoided for years & I could  
not have done it now has turned out a worse thing for  
myself than going in the Van of the Beverley Road. I wrote



rather not <sup>say much about it</sup> because I have carefully avoided ever since  
the occurrence of it alluding to the recollections which are  
in connection of that part of the town which have ever  
since given me trouble in thinking of them - Partly  
And whether they believe it or not it has been (what I  
have been unable to avoid) the dwelling upon the trouble  
to me of not going as agreed upon to Grimsby & Blethorpe &  
the collections or penumbrances which were called  
up by that ride to Hornsea bringing into view some unpleasant  
recollections which has been the cause of my  
last cold which still remains. (There is a large  
in the outskirts of York which I dare not go down  
for fear of making me for some time very unwell by the  
recollections & would call up of some feelings which I  
once had there) That it is the only political thing  
to do to efface these evil recollections & I have written  
home today so & to say that as I had leave for a visit  
to the Sea Side last year for the next trip which I had  
leave for in the fall for which was not taken it  
seems only fair on paper that I should have  
this instead viz a prolongation for Trip to Hull  
advertised only by the 13<sup>th</sup> by going on to Grimsby  
& Blethorpe & taking great care to avoid going within  
sight of the Beverley Road & having a pleasant  
care taken with one Not Land. Minter. I said  
The expense would be about Seven shillings & I would  
give up the gala to reduce it to that out of consideration  
to my Parents expenses - I know



the don't like long letters or I would lengthen this out  
much longer - but I would be willing to have either  
Jas Mason or Jno Hodgson or Jno Brown the Night Watchman  
who has not been to Hull for about twenty years I think  
If thee can read Holtan's letters I should say thee could  
easily read mine - I long for the time to

come when although I must always be an invalid  
owing to this dreadful affliction of impure & scrupulous  
Blood circulating all over me - when my Maker  
will treat me kindly & shall endeavour <sup>even</sup> if it  
is not done to take he shine out of all around  
me in giving evidence by behaviour that I am  
a lover of God & according to thy ideas a right lover  
of men, or mankind. There are many

things I should like to speak to thee about but I  
will say that for the last for a certainty of 50 years & a  
half I have been fearfully mocked by my Maker -  
I cannot see Ann Gardner's communication to me  
on the first week of the 3rd mo last year in any other light  
than that of a mocking of me by my Maker. She  
said (a perfect stranger to me) "Since I have been  
sitting here those words of the Most High through one of  
his ancient prophets have come before me & so  
Unexpectedly with such power that I feel it to be  
my duty to repeat them when repeated. March 5th 1844  
I was followed by a sermon for 10 cal prayer which was  
all except the very end of it entirely about me J.W.Y



Drutching, I wish thee to do me full justice, on a subject  
I speak about & not give a hasty judgment on the matter.  
but let it be decided entirely on the merits of the case. The  
Schoolmaster in "The boy without a genius" in the Evening at home  
is reported to have said "I always wish to avoid hasty judgment  
& wish thee to do so in this case & hear all I have to say about  
it."

I told thee soon after coming from Newcastle & Plymouth  
that there was a feeling connected with a former visit here the  
which was injurious to me & that I wished to overtop it, by putting  
something in its place by going to Scarborough as soon as I could.  
Now my judgment, quite as much as my feelings tells me that  
if I apply no work on 2<sup>nd</sup> Day I should be much improved by  
going in an extremely quiet way to Scarbro, chiefly to sit off the  
Spa & watch the sea, or walking gently on the shore.  
I think it would be the great turning point in my getting well.  
Now the going to Newcastle & Scarbro have no similarity between  
them. For instance I was getting worse & worse & was  
not fit to go to Newcastle & Plymouth. If I was only carried out I could  
not look to going for many weeks. Now I can ride down  
to the train at 8.15 am by no Hodgson driving me in the dog  
Cart. I can go by 1<sup>st</sup> class carriage for 5/- if the bank is better.  
- The journey is only half the distance to Newcastle & Plymouth.  
- It is not a busy & bustling day which the other has been.  
The great day of the races. I should not go on the sea at  
all at Plymouth. Have a large new & very great coat to put  
overall. The train leaves early home & I could ride as  
far as the Victoria for a shilling. And if thee will only let  
me have the half hour thee promised me as soon as afterwards



as possible to try to get redress for some grievances which have  
long weighed on my mind — And I can keep in bed as I now do  
as much as is desirable to rest myself after coming back.

That if I am no worse & my judgment & feelings on Ildy are  
as strong in the matter as they are now, let it be tried as I say  
in this exceedingly quiet way — And then I believe I shall  
get better & be able soon to get about as usual. I look  
forward to getting quite strong enough for my visit to the  
Bellevue gardens, which I have been promised, &c.



Dr. Kitching

2nd 1865

I wish to say a few words to thee as  
it seems necessary. I can't go on in this way much  
longer - we are put here to be made the best of & not  
to be wilfully made miserable as thee have been  
wilfully making me the last few weeks - I like  
openness & I endeavour to keep to the truth in all  
important things which is more than is the case  
with all here I believe. The remark was written  
to me last year in supposition of its being correct I  
suppose which however I find is not so - "Thou have  
a kind friend in Dr. Kitching who listens to thee & wishes  
to make those around him as comfortable as he  
can." I wish it was so as regards myself -  
I wish thee could conceive how miserable thee have  
been wilfully making me the last few weeks -  
When I consider for many reasons there's no right  
to wilfully make me miserable - There is a  
line which says in addressing the Creator "Teach  
me to feel another's woe" ++ ++ That mercy I to  
others show that mercy show to me - & although I  
believe that thee cannot feel for me fully by  
comprehending entirely my feelings yet if one  
speaks the truth thee are bound to believe it - I believe  
I am different to most persons <sup>in being</sup> naturally of an unhappy  
disposition & for that what is wanted to sweeten



life, & make life truly blest is true Religion - that is  
the feeling that you have the Love of God & Christ  
beaming down upon you & blessing you in every  
way & that you have supreme loves to God & Christ  
& are doing all you can for living for his cause in  
return for his love to you - And that is what I  
want to make life comfortable, particularly  
when I feel it to be <sup>as it is</sup> now scarcely bearable. And  
I have had infinitely more inclination to temptation  
to put an end to myself during the years I have  
been here than I believe there has been any conception  
of - There is no doubt there have been a great deal  
years ago in not doing my best to push through  
difficulties which lay in my way when I might  
have attained to this happy state of love to God & his  
love to me - But it is no use talking about that  
now, & the only thing is for the future to make life  
bearable so as to be able to live on until there is a  
renewed offer of love from God to me & therefore a power  
given me to love them to fit me for the Kingdom of  
God. There have been no offers of love from God to  
me for more than three years & I felt so keenly my  
position that as I told Henry & Frank in my letter to them  
I thought evidences were (owing to troubles here) that I  
should not live long that out of desperation I wrote a  
humor



letter to him & delivered it at his house on 5<sup>th</sup> by evening the  
20<sup>th</sup> of 10 mo 1864 asking him to intercede for me with  
his Creator & ask that his ministry might be blessed  
to me which he was called to preach on the following 1<sup>st</sup> by  
10<sup>th</sup> by evening I spoke to him telling him that I was sorry  
to say that what he had been saying that day was no truth  
to me & what did he say? "Why 'tis a bodily infirmity, thou  
must ask the Saviour to remove it, when he was on earth he went  
about healing all manner of diseases & he can do the same now  
if he's only willing — I'll admit 'tis the heaviest affliction  
which can be laid on a person — (What more could have  
been said to show his sympathy for me) "Thou must ask  
the Saviour to clear my mental vision, so that thou  
mayst see things as they really are" — And then  
in the succeeding interview with him after she had  
said "I'll remember thee in my prayers" — in reply  
to my question, how well it be this time three mo<sup>th</sup>,  
he said "I can't tell, it may be three days, or three  
months, or 3 years, (before the blessing comes) —  
— "the ways of God in dealing with his creatures  
are very various" — I want to be stubborn  
thru on even to the end of the 3 years even for the  
sake of the blessing, but I cannot live on much  
longer in this miserable state in which I am now &  
have been for the last few weeks which thou have



unjustly & wilfully brought upon me — which  
I call upon thee if thou art any thing of a Christian  
to remove — I am so miserable & unhappy through  
want of a Saviour's love to me & love to God & I feel  
so fully the force of the old saying "the human  
heart must love something;" that the only thing  
which has been put before me as a source of  
comfort is to feel & to thorow that I love some  
one — And the only being that I have been able  
to love for a very long time is William Horsnail —  
And now when I come to speak boldly to thee to wit  
explain things fully to thee & not to wilfully  
make me ten times more miserable than there was  
any occasion for — nor to make a Tantalus of  
me, thou go & thorow on these unfeeling keepers  
to take away the only source of comfort there  
is left me by telling them to take it away from me —  
I call upon thee in the name of Justice & humanity  
& religion if thou have any religion at all left in  
thee not to continue to get such an unfeeling  
& cruel part — Take the child away & make  
me no longer a Tantalus — If I am an  
afflicted punitive & as Henry Hopkins says "afflicted  
with the heaviest affliction which can befall a  
person" — don't thou make me worse to drive



me as far as thee can to self destruction — which  
could be done at any moment — I don't wish to  
love Wm Horsnall, but I can't help it whether he's  
in my company — & I'd accept of a substitute  
any moment if the Creator would give me one in love  
with him, but Hopkins says I may have to wait for  
3 years for it — & there's no right to wilfully make me  
unhappy in this way — to hand on the keepers that  
they won't let me lay hold of his hand <sup>ever</sup> to comfort me —  
Take the Chelmsarray — He has no qualifications  
for this gallery, or scarcely any qualifications for  
this gallery — This gallery I consider is specifically  
for those who like to rest on account of the Library  
which he does not — He was as happy as the dog  
down in the other gallery & said when questioned that  
"he thought he was better there than in the 1<sup>st</sup> gallery"  
— & why was he brought up here without the qualifi-  
cations for it? — There is plenty of room for him  
in the other gallery if thee'll only think there's room  
"where there's a will there's a way" with people  
with sound minds which mine is not — Thee  
expect me to speak the truth to thee even if I am  
so heavily afflicted — I am not certain whether  
there are not one or two less in the lower gallery  
than there were some time last summer or autumn  
(From Over)



How can you expect a heavily afflicted person like me to act the same as an ordinary person & when Eliza Hitching came in & saw I had got hold of Wm Horsnalls hand & after she had done reading Wm Horsnall was patting my thigh, she said - "Oh patting one another! you're like a couple of children together!" - Well if we were & are like a couple of children together what great sin, or harm is there in that, if its the only comfort to such a miserable mind as mine - You know or ought to know as well as I do that I am the most ailing patient in the house as regards bodily health & that I require every comfort, which can be had & I cannot live any where but in the most comfortable part of the house to invalids, but as for Wm Horsnall he is happy every where & he is naturally of a smiling & happy disposition & strong in <sup>body</sup> health, what seems to be the fault of him now is he seems to be in a kind of half stupor state that he isn't inclined to exert himself in any way - At the Temperance Festival a speaker said that the great want of the age was sympathy [which means fellow feeling] that sympathy which would hold out the hand to help a brother out of distress. That's what we want the speaker said - I want (Turnover



to be helped out of my distress, but I cannot live  
for 3 years in this Tantalus way — my life is  
severely bearable — I wish thee to help me out of  
my distress by removing this <sup>or</sup> not wilfully any  
longer making me a Tantalus & giving me every  
inducement to put an end to myself — "I was  
written to last year in these words" — "There have a kind friend  
in Dr. Kitching who listens to thee & wishes to make those  
around him as comfortable as he can —" Is this  
true or untrue? If thee see difficulties in the  
way, I would say there is Dr. Martin who is infinitely  
more of a reader & writer than W. Horsaull who has  
asked me several times if there was room for him in  
this gallery, because he should like to come up  
here — (W. H. did not ask to come) & Jas Morley could  
come up on conditions that he would not run away  
if he did — as I've heard he had asked to come  
up, it is very easy to propose those conditions —  
I should not think myself he'd attempt to run  
away even without those conditions for a long  
time — Then too if there is so very much difficulty  
in taking away this great source of misery to me for want  
of room; there is the young person Tone might be exchanged  
with W. Horsaull — if he's guilt, which thee ought to know  
whether he is or not — & I should think he would be  
perhaps, quite as much a reader, or more of a reader  
James



than W. B. Horsnall — Or if there is so much difficulty  
attendant on these propositions — W. B. Horsnall might  
be in the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> gallery with notice given for our  
attendants, or "Keepers," to call for him to take him out  
walks, when the 1<sup>st</sup> gallery patients are going out.  
— I think it's only pure justice that I should be  
relieved from this misery — <sup>that I should not</sup> ~~that I should not~~  
longer wilfully make me a Tantalus, — <sup>the great unhappiness indeed</sup> I wish  
thee to receive what is written in this Letter as Truth  
as although there may be untruth in the house, I  
suppose thee wish me to keep to the truth — I wish  
the exception of the first year I was here I have endeavoured  
to keep to the truth with thee in all important  
matters.

J. H. Theobald

I've been rather surprised that Mrs Brown  
hasn't been set to help them in the lower gallery  
like Stephen Arnett the Night Watchman  
and if they're overdone there.



Ino Kitching

16/8/61

I wish to have a  
sea breeze at Whitby next week  
(to strengthen me) / (the most strengthening  
thing there is) / & I wish to speak of  
two subjects.

1st) I find this system of having  
the windows & door work open  
day evenings & morning, & day,  
(which was never done before) /  
very trying to me indeed.

It is not after the golden rule, and  
trying & injuring me in this way.  
Being more than is the case  
in any other gallery, & I wish  
to be kept to say as regards the

Window 3 4 Great panels open  
during day evenings & day morning  
& all day (which last year was  
not open at all — & as the evening  
air is almost universally open  
demanded by doctors, they should be  
shut within half a pane at least



from dusk until 9 o'clock in  
the morning (now very dewy & cool.)

2<sup>nd</sup> &  
as regard the Door }  
which was told me / the window  
being open / I could have shut as  
much as I liked — & then afterwards  
"when I found it wet or cold."

It should be left in this way  
"Anybody can open it, but when  
I find it wet or cold I can shut  
it." & then between the two, it will  
be half the day open & half the day  
shut.

It is not likely I should speak  
what is untrue about these things  
& it isn't for me to sit still & allow  
my health to be ruined by these  
things. I have borne more than  
I find good because I don't want  
to have "rows" if we can avoid  
it & therefore I wish these things  
to be met in a proper way



I have a "Split the difference"—  
I hear & I hear.  
It is the passionate Arnold  
whose business, is nothing to  
do with the windows & doors (but  
the head attendants business, but  
who will meddle & make "rows"  
& therefore I wish thee to speak to  
him on the subject of respecting  
the door at any rate & the night  
air. J. H. H. Stalo

In a few weeks time it  
will be cold enough for fires  
in the sitting rooms, & then  
the windows & doors must  
be shut. (J. W. M. Oke)



I have said nothing hitherto about  
the cause of my feeling the cold more  
than any one else, but it is what  
I have said many & many a  
time — the constitutional floating  
humour, showing itself at the eyes  
& nose & which no one can deny  
or remove, & which my brother  
Joseph remarked when I told  
him about it. "Well we know very  
well if a person has humour about  
him it's likely to settle at the weakest  
part [the chest] & which I have  
to avoid allowing



The Friends Retreat York 28/9/67

Dear Friend

Ann Gardner

I don't know what thee may think of my writing to thee, but I don't feel satisfied not to remind thee, of a circumstance which took place between thee & me - Thee being, a total stranger to me, on the 6th of the 3rd mo, 1865, I was greatly disappointed I have been of the "prophesying" according to the Friends' definition of prophesying of thee to me, not coming to anything at all up to this time. Now more than two years & a half ago this has not been my fault, for I have innumerable times asked & endeavoured to ask the Deity that it might be fulfilled & I am so thoroughly tired of life with the troubles arising from my mental weakness & bodily weakness in all their different variations & varieties, that really I don't know how I can live much longer without some very great change indeed taking place. And at the least I should like to have a sympathizing letter from thee & stating that thee will remember me in thy prayers. I will state that on the 6th of the 3rd mo 1865, I was sent for to see my friend Mira Hamby on Pauls Square York & after she & thee asking me a few questions, you ceased & there was silence & the thought occurred to me, that as the Mira Hamby, sent for me I wouldn't force conversation. So we sat in silence for a short time, & then thee a recorded Minister in the Society of Friends took to addressing me beginning with these words: "Since I have sitting here some words of the Most High King, one of his ancient prophets, have come before me so unexpectedly



with such power, that I feel it to be my duty to repeat them. I hope if the Lord will that he may be found calling upon him whilst he is here. Let the wicked forsake his way & the unrighteous man his thoughts, & let him return unto the Lord & he will have mercy upon him & to our God for he will abundantly pardon". — And then making a pretty long address to me saying among other things "I desire that thou may not put off seeking the Lord, under the idea that thou canst serve him better at some future time & something about holiness part of which was what I sought for his assistance the Lord would enable me to put away everything which is offensive in His sight."

But I cannot remember, so as to be able to repeat it much if anything else, as I did not hear thee well, perhaps it was because I had some wool in my ears, which I have generally, because I am so troubled with any scratching or itching in the house, it is so great an annoyance, together with other unnecessary noises, that I keep wool in my ears to deaden the sound. — Soon after that thee knelt down in the Easy chair & prayed for me, calling me Brother in thy prayer. As far as my memory goes the whole of the prayer with the exception of the extreme latter part of one, or two perhaps two, or perhaps three sentences, being entirely about me alone.

I heard & remembered the most important part of the address I expect & I suppose that thee wished me to think the quotation from Isaiah 55 Chap. to be by authority, by thy saying that it had "Come before thee so unexpectedly, with such power, that thee felt it to be thy duty to repeat it."

How sorry I have been that there has been no evidence of its having been given thee today. Whether I & Kitchen may think about patients dying at the Rectory necessarily going to glory because they would undo their neglect of good if they could, now that they are incapable of doing it or of loving & serving their Maker. I don't believe it, but



that persons dying at the Retreat, will be judged & condemned  
afterwards according to what they were before mental distress  
came upon them. So as to unfit their minds from serving & loving  
their Maker. And judging from that I am as sure of hell as if  
I was in it.

There is no doubt that severe  
sacrifices have been required of me in those periods of visitation  
from above, which I have had before mental distress came upon  
me sufficient to make my relations think that I was fit  
for this house. My nervous disposition has not only made  
me feel these more than I ought but perhaps also magnified  
them & prevented my taking the necessary steps to reduce  
the difficulties in the way of accepting God's offers of mercy.

And here the thing lies in a nutshell: I have had  
periods of offers of God's mercy since being at this house but as  
I thought it difficult, that I waited until they would be less  
so I did not go to Meeting then under the idea that I would  
not go until I was in a state of acceptance with my Maker in  
which I should be able there to do as others there did, that is there  
worship God in spirit & in truth. Whereas I have now for it  
least thirty years seen that I ought as a matter of policy to  
have gone before just as I was, because what I should then  
have heard in the way of outward ministry, would have so acted  
as food in my soul as to prick me forward, so that I should under  
that influence have been enabled to knock down & overcome  
every obstacle in the way. I do believe this most thoroughly.

But I was never to stop to Meeting then by the Deity, & when  
I did it was too late.

Now I am of a very suicidal tendency &  
now have much longer without some change in overcoming my front  
in their blind removal. I don't know, but if there was any  
revelation from the Deity to me telling me <sup>at what period</sup> hence  
he would show me a smiling face & would use every effort  
to live until then, but not a spark of evidence is ever given me



to prove that my prayers are ever heard by Him. I have had no  
positive evidence of Divine Visitation being extended to me since  
the 22<sup>nd</sup> of <sup>the</sup> mo 1859. My memory is extremely good, I wish  
that in enumerating things the remembrance of which are troubles to me  
it was not so good. But I believe that up to the end of the 8<sup>th</sup> mo  
1861 I might have lived a life of faith if I had sought after it  
that is from the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> mo 1858 to the end of the 8<sup>th</sup> mo 1861  
but my memory tells me, with exceptions of two periods of peculiar  
ill health in which I was unable to attend to good of two months once  
& six months another time within the period just named.

Then until this ~~time~~ present time, there have been no offers  
of Divine regard, or love, sent before me, dating from the end  
of the 8<sup>th</sup> mo 1861 a period of six years & three months, unless  
there was a period of help offered me for about a fortnight the latter part  
of the 11<sup>th</sup> mo 1862, which I had an idea then would have been if I had  
given way to some very gentle softening feelings which came over me  
when I read some parts of a new little book which I had lately bought  
called the Sacred Garland, but I resolved then to wait until the 1<sup>st</sup>  
of the 12<sup>th</sup> mo until I really applied myself to fixing my to these feelings  
truly asking the Deity for his mercy & terms of acceptance of  
— And when the 1<sup>st</sup> of the 12<sup>th</sup> mo was come there certainly were no offers  
of good ready for me —

Now if thee can do nothing else, thee can write  
me a letter & state if thee are willing that thee will intercede  
for me with thy Creator, that he it may please Him very soon  
to show me a smiling face, & that thy communication to me  
may soon come to thee which thee made to me from Isaac 53 Chap.

[Note] In a previous part of this letter I alluded to bodily weakness,  
I will just say that the apothecary told a person in my hearing a short  
time ago that he was the most expensive person in the place meaning he was paying so much  
in medicine & blasters. That is very likely true if alluding to a period of years for he had many years  
in his cell. I think it is very likely true & I regret that it should be so, but what can I do to help it  
if I live at all. I am Thomas Holford, formerly of Henley on Thames aged 33 years & 9 mos



Dr Hutchins I think perhaps its time to tell thee plainly  
what I have been satisfied all along has been the cause of  
my last three <sup>or four</sup> attacks of inflammation. It has been ~~directly~~  
or indirectly caused I have felt all along by the trouble I have  
gone through with an aching tooth & the prospect of having  
to have it taken out to get peace, only feeling that I could  
the greater part of the time & since then have been so solemn  
about the matter that I have decided to have it out under  
a very strong influence & only that. I'm sorry it should  
be so but I quite expect that I'm the most nervous person  
in all York & I have so fearfully dreaded it but there really  
seems to be no prospect of even life at all being given  
me for many months longer unless I agree to have it taken  
out & only under those considerations have I decided to  
have it taken out under a very strong influence. When  
this tooth which has given me so much trouble of body &  
mind has been stopped on purpose as I thought to prevent  
aching I made so much resistance that Dr. King cut  
out I don't know what he'd do if he had one taken out & the  
man said he thought I should have to leave but it was too  
far gone for the man got nearly on to the nerve & it's been  
aching every day more or less ever since & I've been troubling  
myself about it so dreadfully. I have personally thought  
of asking thee to give me chloroform to the extent of 3 per cent  
with atmospheric air as the Cyclopaedia says that from 4 to  
5 per cent or even 6 per cent of chloroform may be safely ad-  
ministered & says that Anaesthesia, or that state of the body  
in which operations may be performed without the patient  
knowing it may be produced by what is called Animal  
Magnesium. I don't know anything about it & if thee  
can be quite sure it won't kill me thee may put me into  
this state to take it out. — And the Cyclopaedia says  
12<sup>th</sup> Supplement under the head of Therapeutics: During the  
action of alcohol on the Nervous System in cases  
of Drunkenness operations have been performed  
without the knowledge of the patient.

I should like to get drunk to have it out but as  
I'm afraid thee won't allow that the only terms I can come  
to to save my life, as it is a life & death concern is that  
(Run over



seeing that I don't want to lose the soul which will be sure to be  
lost if I don't have it out soon for its impossible to live long  
in this misery of mind & body which it causes me, that  
I will have it out & under the influence of alcohol  
if thee will let me take 2 pint bottles of Bitter Ale  
in my pocket to drink off just before it is taken  
out. And then I shall have peace — And  
my life will be lengthened out indefinitely & then immediately  
that the influence of the alcohol is off I will guarantee  
that I am not laid up entirely with inflamed eyes  
for a twelve months. — And I will go & have it out  
as soon as thee think my eyes are fit to stand the alcoholic  
effects of these 2 bottles of ale.

I don't think thee are willing to use strong enough remedies  
for my eyes but I cannot take less than that quantity  
& I wish thee immediately after the tooth is out that of my  
day to give me some very strong treatment in the way  
of blistering & lowering medicine & leeches to prevent  
or cure as soon as possible any evil effects in  
the eyes from that dose of alcohol. And then when  
any evil from that is got over I will guarantee  
that I shall not be laid up entirely with inflamed  
eyes for at least twelve months.

For although I have all I shall always have to take  
great care of the eyes yet I have almost if not quite  
all along felt that the disorder in the eyes proceeds  
more than anything else from a disturbed or unquiet  
state of the brain. — My Creator treats me  
so very badly but let me once get on friendly terms  
with him then there would be nothing like so many  
ailments to me as I now have.

It will be quite successful for me to be under some influence  
to enable me to sit still. Some people say they can  
make up their minds to bear this thing & that thing, but  
I don't seem as if I could, but the Ale must do it.



It is a life or death case & therefore I have decided  
I will try & bear it under this influence

- And then this accursed thing will be over the most  
terrible thing that ever I shall suffer & then I shall  
be & one ~~altogether~~ altogether with such things for  
I'll never have another tooth either stopped or  
taken out again. I was talking to the man at Scarbro  
about it & he said the Ale would improve my spirits  
he thought, & Scarbro was altogether spirit by my  
troubling myself about the subject from morning  
to night & there has been no peace about it for the last  
nearly two months but have it out & then there would  
be peace - & life indefinitely. It is  
a life or death case & that ought to settle it & I shall  
settle it but the Ale must do it. And I must  
go with Mrs Brown because he laughs at me for making  
such a job of it & Hottenway also as he has offered  
to go with me to comfort me. I'm afraid my  
heart will fail me though when I get there but the Ale  
must do it. ~~He is~~ J H Theobald



Dr. H. H. H. H.



Dr. Kitching Its very clear to me that a person of such  
ungovernable temper as Saml. Mines who got striking me  
several times about the heart yesterday, & shaking me  
by the neck is not the proper person to take care of me whilst  
I'm poorly, neither is this the proper room to be in for its  
litter. It stinks from the Night stool, or extravagant wind  
from the windows, that I'm afraid of catching cold.

And will thee appoint a person that can govern his temper  
to take care of me?

(He took up a chair & held it at me in a threatening attitude)  
We all know what injury he's done to Lindseley — he had  
to keep in bed for a fortnight & as some one remarked he's never  
been like himself ever since

I'm better than I was & I feel it tedious  
to be kept in the room all day & as this is somewhat of a  
nervous complaint, I think if I feel myself able to toddle about  
a little in the afternoon & evening, that I had better act as I  
feel my strength allow me. Up'til quite well. Therefore  
propose doing as thee proposed to me that is going into Cobdell's  
bed in the great room at once (where there will be company  
after tea) & keep in bed in the morning & if I feel strong  
enough to toddle about down stairs a little after dinner  
to act in such way, or not, just as I feel my strength  
allow me. Wm. Ridsell had better wait  
upon me.

LWS.



To Messrs

J H Shestak

J. Shestak



Dr Kitching

(This is quite a private matter that I should be glad if thee will read this to thyself (not aloud))

There is no one can have a greater feeling of love for W<sup>m</sup> Hornaill than I have & he has told me I think more than once "Why thee'd eat me if thee could" - & I have told him that if I could only love a Superior Being I should not feel such love for him, & in fact the last time I saw him I expressed in substance that I wished him every possible good, but unfortunately one or more persons in this gallery either cannot comprehend such a thing, or don't like to see any manifestation of it & I cannot avoid showing it, & it seemed to cause some unpleasantness before that I just wish to say, that although I wish him every good, as far as I am concerned I would much rather he would not come into this gallery - If it is very advisable that he should return I wish thee would allow him & even encourage him to return to his old occupation in the stable in attending to the harness & horses & being out of doors the greater part of the day, for I cannot get him to read & the stable doesn't know what to do with himself in the gallery, except in being silly & making a noise. It's only right that I should speak when it appears advisable, & allow



me to say, as Morley I have understood has  
asked to return into this gallery that I have no  
material objection to offer to that

J. H. Throble



to Kirby. It seems to me not advisable altogether to delay  
writing a few things to thee, although I have heather the energy nor  
the clear-headedness just how to do the things, justice of the allusion  
to them here may be chiefly the preliminaries to future parleys  
about them, but I must try to allude at least to a few things.  
I don't know whether thee read my letter to M. Keimby, but thee  
was quick welcome to do it as it contained Multum in parvo exp-  
essions & I wish it was not really so truths. — Thee would  
see that I have for some time felt about as miserable in mind as  
I could well be & in fact I spoke to the truth to any one it would  
be in these words as how I am & have been for a long while. "As Miser-  
able as I can be on Earth & as sure of hell as if I was in it"  
I don't wish this to be my case indeed I don't, & thee would  
see that I have said about my will if it could be carried out  
of living through thick & thin till the 1<sup>st</sup> of 4<sup>th</sup> mo 1840 & then if  
Divine Good is not offered me of "ultimizing oneself no longer  
but to have recourse to the poison bottle" — Thee have been  
my thoughts & feelings daily for many weeks if not months. And  
I have stated one great truth in which my troubles are caused  
more than perhaps anyone else in this house viz that whereas almost  
every one else has his feelings deadened, as the result of this mental  
injury mine are made more sensitive & I find out every dis-  
agreeableness — This is not the same as but is no doubt  
partly caused, or aggravated by my bodily weakness, showing itself  
if any thing called work is done in inflamed eyes so that I cannot  
unhappily have all the fine feelings of the gentleman, without the power  
in myself of sharing my troubles, which are caused by more sensitiveness  
of mind & body than others here being dejected, either by my-  
self or others. I do indeed mean that I say about the 1<sup>st</sup> of 4<sup>th</sup>  
4<sup>th</sup> mo 1840 & though I greatly think thee don't like my troubles  
in alterable things, but is those troubles about things which  
may be & I think ought to be altered, for my good  
being put before thee yet Dr. Luke said that it was his duty,  
or rather exactly actually "It's our duty to come amongst you



talk to you, to try to soothe you" — & he told me once when  
I had taken summary address for a pregnancy that "You have al-  
ways me to appeal to" — but I do think therefore that he  
should have given a fair listening to the ~~the~~ truths of the case in every  
circumstance which I feel ~~to~~ wish to be remedied as far  
as it possibly can be & yet to me exactly in proportion to  
the amount of class which I have in my respect —

And now let a Multum in parvo statement be made  
that although then I didn't see it that it would be so & looked  
upon it in a very different light yet my troubles as regards  
want of Divine love could have been remedied almost  
immediately in 1839 & 1840 & the first quarter at least  
in 1841 if I had then gone down to the Friends Meeting  
with the other patients. I began to go when it was too  
late — And I wish that the Divine Being had enlightened me  
on the subject but he did not. — It would not have directly but  
it would indirectly have almost immediately have knocked  
down all those obstacles which then appeared to stand in my way of  
accepting Divine grace —

2 As I am now I am so unhappy that I wish to go out viz on the  
17<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> for 2 days as has been done for the last by calls viz to Knott's Ferry  
by boat for 24. from 10 o'clock to Hull by York Packet at 10 o'clock the night of  
for a night by the Great North Western Railway back by Ely to Hull & return at  
3 o'clock the day to Hull all the way to York. This can be done at  
a less expense than the visit to Hull last spring. And as it is  
a full day I have no objection to take Holburn if he wants to go as before  
to call on the Jerns, Mr. Rickman & Mr. Hodgson says he would like  
to go. — I have mentioned the circumstance to my parents in writing  
home & I must not give up my idea of visiting Manchester by the  
cheap trip this year in the 4<sup>th</sup> of 8<sup>th</sup> mo. — My rule is or has been  
a 2 days visit to Hull in the spring a day excursion somewhere by  
cheap trip in the summer, & the week's visit to Leeds in the  
autumn. — I must not have Sam. Mines for he told me last  
spring that he would rather have paid his own expenses & gone by himself  
he is not a fellow to go and stay —

— I now this leads me to one of the greatest troubles of my life which



Must be gone into because I unhesitatingly say that it has caused  
me more trouble of mind than anything silly or foolish which has  
yet been perpetrated by me — When my brother was here in  
1864 he would pay me for 2 trips tells me was to Sunderland & after  
Cable he remarks that though he attended spent more money out of the  
pocket left than was advisable — Well for the kept & Jiff there was  
a dispute whether it should be to Hull on the 27<sup>th</sup> August or whether on the 29<sup>th</sup>  
I said Hull — I still say that was the one for me. Well Wilson was  
wholly of the opinion of my brother — I pushed through & went to Hull, but ~~not~~  
~~not~~ there was but 7/6 left — It was on the occasion of the opening of the People's  
Park & Hunter, Rivers — We dined there at Hull till past 1 o'clock & then  
after getting a cheap repast at an eating house to the Pier at my request for crossing  
to then getting back, we waited some time for a steamer & while waiting a  
foolish thought came into my head, I being only in a boy he lurching mood  
I said to Wilson: Is there any one going to Whitby on the 29<sup>th</sup> he said Yes Bernard Rickman  
& one Henry W. Coote, he going I said if he don't spend any more money  
today I might go to Whitby Wilson was a fool enough to encourage it  
I said I dare say he would let you go. And that foolish idea  
was improperly, & as most persons would say selfishly carried  
out. We say nothing as he says, neither spent money except over  
a glass of porter for refreshments just to carry that humbugging idea  
out. And clearly I have paid just for that which ought  
to be had been when at home more than any puff-blowing bauble has  
been entirely closed & sported over since or nearly so — I've never  
dared to talk about that visit since — If it had been properly  
carried out it would have been the grandest & most beautiful  
I should be able to talk about I dwell upon of any of the trips which  
I have had here. Wilson ought to have made himself happy by  
spending a shilling over going into it & have spent a shilling over  
me, & sent me a shilling & then his misery would all have been  
avoided. But the trouble about the supremely foolish proceeding  
has made me wish to avoid Hull as much as I can & under  
his circumstances dare I this year to go hear the scene of  
action in or near the Bersley Road this year — It gave me  
a bad cold the best feel you did the feeling I had from crossing the  
Bersley Road last year in foggy weather — I wish to remedy this  
in the only way in which it is in my power — because I cannot  
forget what Wilson said on the following day when asked by the Knight of the



[illegible]

3 Ironble ground ~~has been~~ has been the expected cause of  
my bad days the last 2 years in all their attacks I  
ought to believe it then I say so — Make me feel  
better than they wouldn't have been to — but this can't be good  
to me —

to here -  
4 I do so, particularly wish father to spend 5 minutes with  
him explaining a great fine piece of thumbing piece of machinery  
in building, which to a great extent, & for next to nothing, if not  
nothing can be altered to make the riding on the carriage something more  
like Comfortable, than it is now. It is an explanation of a remark of  
an attendant on Aug 13, 1863 "I can't think how you can want  
to go out riding on that Wash. & Annap. Carriage". I think that  
any person of average intellect, would easily see the philosophy of what I refer to  
when personally explained to them with the carriage before them



St. Kitts . (Private Communication) .

It seems to me advisable to ask thee to try to stop at once that evil state of body I have been going on with for the greater part of three weeks. On the 18th I felt obliged to give way to something to relieve my troubled feelings about something & the result was almost immediately felt that my nervous system had received a terrible shake from which I have been suffering now for 18 days which has shown itself in every little emotion of mind or exertion of body putting me into such a tremendous sweat. — I also my eyes have had so much pain in the eyeballs which I think is a slight rheumatic affection — & also violent action of the heart — This sweating so much obliged to because it has generally culminated in a cold at the chest. — This I have escaped as yet

but shall be glad if thee will give me some medicine to soothe the nervous system & reduce the action of the heart. — I also I should like to try some wine of opium or something to stop the pain in the eyeballs as I have not applied any thing to the eyeballs since the 9<sup>th</sup> mo 1864



Thoburn, J. H.  
June 1886.

---



2ms 10. 1862

Dr. Kitching. "Either these things are true or else they are untrue" — I wish to say a few words to thee because I think it needful & as thee have expressed such a very strong desire in public to benefit thee in every way I consider (although I feel at times pretty discouraged from doing so) it would be best to do as my brother Josiah told me "Don't be afraid to tell all". I will say that I have not felt at all well lately in the right knee & I consider that it arises from a recent mistake I regret that I made a short time ago. There has been such suffering from evil in the right hip & tendency to run to disease that I am very fearful of anything wrong there & I wish if I possibly can to get through this winter without any organic disease. & thee know I have had a strengthening plaster there for some years & after having had the last for 3 months I asked for a paper to be signed by thee which thee signed for me to have a new plaster roundish oval shaped "the same size & pattern as the last" & I find that in consequence of my not measuring the new pattern from the old plaster but from my idea of size & also from my undertaking to make the new one, the new pattern was very materially smaller than the last one & I made the leather shrivel up by unfortunately burning it by putting on the stuff too hot. I have since felt such an uncomfortable amount of pain & tendency to cough in the side that I consider it best to mention it & ask for it to be rectified by a plaster according to the signed approval "the same size & pattern as the last" which is the proper size & which I will



show thee & I can say with truth that it is not so  
large as I have had some time ago - but it is quite  
large enough. I must take care of myself & it would  
be successful not to do so - And though God seems  
to show me no love or favour it will not do to  
die yet. He has entirely removed his St. Christopher  
from me for the whole of this year at any rate  
although I go to Meeting & it is all a farce at present  
- although I certainly go from a good motive I  
go with the hope that what is said & prayed for will  
be blessed as it ought to be for as it is the preachers  
are telling untruths so much as is said of grace  
being offered to all which is not so - At the  
very best the getting through this winter without  
the grace of God will be a desperate & unpleasant  
struggle. But it must be done. And as it is  
I would much rather be in bed in quietness  
with only Old Moll as Alfred Smith calls him  
to come & see me & the patients such as Wm. Hot Smith  
to bring up my meals. There I am quiet &  
as for that disagreeable Doncaster if he can't be  
cured of whistling he must be where he can do  
it to his own amusement & not to others annoyance  
for when I first came here Walter would not  
let me make any unnecessary noise but continually  
drilled into my ears the saying "if thou wants  
to make a noise thou must go into the other  
gallery - this gallery is for quietness" - (which  
was quite a right thing of him - & I was at last



Willing to go into another gallery when I found  
that my mind was in such a state that I couldn't  
do without making a noise. And as for Chas Knight  
I have asked him many times if he would wish to  
come back here & he says invariably: "No on no account  
for this is such a much more cheerful & pleasant gallery  
& the plants make it so much more cheerful" (But  
things he cares nothing about books no more Coe Doncaster  
If Doncaster will not do as Waller told me let him  
try the next gallery for a day or two. I must have  
some amount of outward peace & comfort so much as  
I am afflicted by God -

2. Another thing I wish to speak about is I should like  
to make the passage in our gallery more fit for what  
it no doubt is professed to be intended to be fit for  
viz a promenade. If it was comfortably warmed  
like it was last winter (but has not been this) I should  
be very glad to walk up & down it sometimes. Last  
winter it was beautifully warmed in fact as it  
ought to be, the pipes were really beautifully hot  
if you put your hand upon them & therefore diffused a  
pleasant & proper warmth into the gallery - but this  
year I have never I think known the pipes to be  
really hot & I find such a difference between the  
temperature of the rooms & the gallery when I am  
obliged to go backwards & forwards that I really think  
it is not healthy as it is & that it is not as it should  
be. If you feel the pipes you will not feel them hot  
as they should be at all so as to make the temperature  
of the gallery nearly assimilating to that of the  
rooms which ought to be the case & which was







1 ms 21. 1862.

to Kitching.

Either these things are true or else they are untrue as Henry Hipsey says - & what am I going to say - why first I must say this for the souls sake "that they must keep me alive & in a state of bodily health free from any organic bodily disease (if they possibly can) until the 30<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> mo 1862 & therefore they must let me have everything that is needful for the carrying out of this thing" - A lamentable state of things that I should be obliged to make such a declaration & requestion - Attending sermons & Sunday evening lectures alone will not save the soul - they have not saved my soul - I know though nobody else does but myself & God why my soul has not been saved yet - It has not been that offers have not been again & again & again put before me & followed me for years on Gods own terms - Oh no but this is all humbug & useless to me if I have not been in a position to do the will of God - except the terms which have only been known to be given by the soul - Oh no it has been my fearful & otherwise called nervousness & my not obeying those seasons & opportunities of impulse - instant impulses which have now & then occasionally from time to time been put before me - & which I have felt I have been wrong in refusing - & which would have put me into a position to do the will of God. The way in which I have been dealt with here as to the requestions of Gods terms of mercy all the world would have called insanity - but that doesn't matter - they were his terms of mercy for all that & I knew them to be so - & at one period was indeed literally speaking bargaining with all which was involved in his terms of mercy - And if I go to Hell it will be as one of the fearful - "The fearful & the unbelieving as well as the abominably wicked are excluded from the Holy City & those who



are placed on the left hand are not charged with gross sins  
of commission but with sins of omission. — Why God  
should have dealt with me more severely than with other  
of the family or than most persons I know not — but  
I had a visitation of the Holy Spirit when about 15 years  
so far to it that I most fully believed all my sins  
up to that time were forgiven through the atonement  
of Christ — but the terms were so severe that it was  
utterly impossible that I could attend to God's requirements  
& attend to business at the same time any longer & I  
look to be a runaway from God's requirements — & I  
never experienced reconciliation with God through  
Christ — In the language of a person narrating in  
one of the York tracts — "Such was the extent &  
pressure of my business that to do it then seemed  
impossible". There is abundance of time here for  
attending to such things — but I know what has been  
in my way my fearfulness — God has imposed His  
terms during the last three years & more which are to  
be complied with previously to being led to Christ —  
that is indeed a saying or doing some little thing under  
the awful influence of the Holy Spirit as His terms of  
mercy previously to being led to Christ for salvation  
— & which any body but myself could have complied  
with at the beginning — who am the very soul of  
fearfulness — That shaky state of the nerves which  
showed itself at school in not playing with any of  
the boys at school during a period of  $4\frac{3}{4}$  years & never  
learning to slide — nor yet to jump into the water in bathing  
has shown itself ever since & which jumping in, would  
now be my salvation if grace were offered by making  
a precedent at once for fulfilling the terms of God's  
requirements. — In the beginning of the year 1856 when  
I wrote about instead of acting a precedent, which was



an exceedingly sinful & dangerous thing for it might  
have been done long before I had the interview with  
her - I used the following remarkable expression  
which I am sure was true - If I were from impulse  
to break the four or two of the large panes of glass in the  
Kitchen window something odd or singular woud then  
be done which would come before me as a companion  
& precedent to strengthen me & enable me to do the  
will of God & gain a Saviour - And although that was  
only one out of many & many precedents which could  
be taken if impulse only prompted them, that & every  
other precedent had been neglected for more than  
three years after the last offers of Gods mercy & terms  
were put before me & it was with that impression that  
I came down stairs & broke them on the 12 of the 12 mo 1847  
- but I didnt keep to the original agreement four or  
two - it was no use. Therefore to do that which  
had been my impression so long I came down the other  
night & did the four & four only - & that ought to be  
a precedent either in itself or leading to something else  
which woud be a sure one - And it will be a cruel  
thing if it is not - But if that is not sufficient there  
is something else which I have had in my minds eye  
for a long time, but which I shall not say, which  
if the spirit of God does again visit me with offers of  
mercy soon must be done & shall be done - My case  
is desperate - My soul is on the road to Hell & nothing  
but a precedent will avert its course - That or anything  
else which God puts before me in the way of impulse  
must be done & shall be done - I fully believe if this  
spirit & presence be with any one he can turn a dungeon  
into a Paradise - And I have too truly realized that  
which Henry Stimpson preached about some time ago a  
Hell begun upon Earth - I listened to that



remarkable sermon of Caleb Williams's on Sunday  
the 19<sup>th</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> mo - Describing my state oh yes I never heard  
such a remarkable sermon before so very descriptive  
of my state & yet that there would be a way of escape  
before long if only accepted from the left I am often  
proud I have gathered thy children together as a hen  
gathereth her chickens under her wings ~~and~~ you would  
not. Therefore the bent of this letter is to say thou  
must by everything that is requisite, keep me alive  
& in a state of bodily health free from any organic  
bodily disease until the 30<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> mo 1862 that the  
soul may not go to Hell. - I even help to put down  
that accursed whistling & singing of John Rushworth  
- it is a most intolerable nuisance. No one but God  
knows the nuisance it is to me - a fellow can do  
without wanting to be singing & whistling all day long  
- It is abominable & cannot be allowed in a gallery  
which is appropriated for those that wish for quietness  
- I will say a few words more & then close I know  
there are no friends to porter but I have been in such  
a state of weakness & exhaustion for some time that  
I feel that I want some porter for a short time - if  
only for a fortnight - Thou once humoured me with  
some porter for a fortnight & I am sure it did me  
a great deal of good & that if it is needful for me to  
have porter I must request thou will let me have  
it - And another thing too in which it is good for me  
is I believe - a book here says that vegetable bitters  
are a direct poison to the Ascended those things which  
I have been troubled with more or less from infancy.

J. H. Theobald