

Papers relating to Hannah West

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2/ That my conduct has not
been offensive toward
them. My sister E. Brown
came to see me yesterday
and while I was ex postu-
lating with her for sanc-
-tioning in any way the
treatment to which I am
subjected here. she told
me she felt for me - but
added "if we were to be
friends in advocating thy
right we should cause
a division in the family -

If it is in thy power as a
Medical Man - or in any
other Capacity I implore
thee & E. Kitching to help me -
My dear Child will soon
be returning to School - his
Father will be here for
sometime longer - it may
be for a permanency -
It is due to myself to say
that I never trouble any
one by intruding upon
them - but I am so very
wretched here - I am

afraid I shall become
excited - if this condition
of espionage is held over
me - only for the purpose
of screening my cruel &
obdurate brother -

I am with much respect
& gratitude J. West

Address. Edward West

John Rutten.

Saltford

Bristol



At. Mrs. Cawley. Ash Cottage. Penketh.
Near Wainwright
1 Mo 22. 65.

Esteemed Friend

Dr. Kitching - It is long since I
availed myself of the privilege which
thou once kindly accorded to me of writing
to thee occasionally - I think thou canst
just now render me some assistance,
should this letter appear lengthy may
I ask thee to read it patiently to the
end. I have not the power which some
possess of condensing my meaning
into a few words, and every line I now
trace is fraught with deep heart feeling.

My difficulties have very
materially increased lately, and
with them my mental suffering and
physical inconveniences have been
greatly augmented. I know thou art
aware that mine is a case which
cannot be understood generally, &
consequently ordinary means fail to

effect what is intended by those
who resort to them, and my sorrows
and troubles are overwhelming. but
as yet my principles have never
succumbed. nor have I indeed any
gross temptations to contend with,
but rather. Aspirations for something
beyond my reach. And I am led to
believe that I am exposed to suffer-
ing, which Dr. (C) Williams and
myself would really not allow if
in your power to prevent. I feel
that I may write freely to thee, or
rather to you, for I believe if Dr W
is at home thou wilt mention me
to him. For about a year previously
to last 4 months he had occupied a
small ~~little~~ house near Pentkith
School where my dear little boy went
as a Day Boarder to school. he could
not go quite so punctually as I de-
sired because we ^{were} nearly a mile

from the school, and having
to pass close by to pool I dare not
trust him - (he was not then 7 years old)
to go alone. My home cares and they
were at times pressing preventing me
always leaving to the minute - However
in the 4th mo that home had to be
given up small as it was for want
of means. Lodgings were taken for
me and my dear child near the school
and his father went to reside with his
married daughter at Kendal. Tho. M.
allowing him 20 £ pr year - when
he failed about 18 months previously
to this time the friends of Warrington
purchased his furniture and pre-
sented it to him - and when at the
time alluded to we had to give up
the little home I have spoken of.
above they insisted that the
furniture should be sent to
Kendal, that it should in short

become the property of his daughter.
He complied with this request &
all the best Furniture is there.

While I relate to thee all these
details - will show he so kind as to
bear in mind my early history &
to trace the effect of it upon my des-
tiny - and upon my present position
and circumstances. This early history
is not generally known of course
and if it were, where is the mind
sufficiently enlightened and eleva-
ted to perceive my difficulties &
to aid. I said Lodging were taken
for me and the dear child near the
School we were alone & from that time
until the 22 of 6 mo, the vacation he
did not miss school once, nor was
he ever after time. That I remember
the minute - indeed Jos. Bailock
said nothing could have done

2. better. The vacation commenced and it was arranged for us to go to Saltford - it was not my wish to go there. I wanted to avoid it. However we went. At the expiration of the time I returned with my child to Penketh School, a friend of my mother's accompanied us. and it was arranged contrary to my judgment to leave him at Penketh School and for ~~them~~ ^{us} to go with me to Ireland. It was a time of intense suffering to me. I staid about three months when arrangements were made for me to go to Chester. My dear sister paid very high for such accommodation as I had and upon hearing that Scarlet Fever had appeared in the

School at Penketh, I at once
came here & took such lodgings
as I could find - they are very
humble but respectable - but
I spend less here, of what belongs
to others, for earn nothing - this
consideration is of itself some allevia-
tion for to be consuming the produce
of other persons' labour is very irksome
to me. considering all I did for my bro-
thers, I think with perfect honesty I
make take 20 p week from them, that is
5 p Cent on a 1000 £. they will not miss
this. I have had more and the chief
from my beloved sister Mary. My
brother John suggests that I should
do something - it is often suggested
to me what a good home I might have
with my brother John who is single &
that I could employ myself among
his poultry. I have offered to do so

promising to do the best I could &
to some extent this has been tried
but the associations of the place I
cannot endure - I of course am very
dull, and very lonely - And I
want to be allowed to have my
dear little ^{boy} as a Day Boarder at
the School as he was before. Joseph.
Barloek, Hannah Sketch and
Eleanor Holmes, the 2 last are over -
Lees - and the former was - but he
resigned the office a few weeks ago -
there are many difficulties connect-
ed with filling it consistently in
Harrington Meeting. So many Commer-
cial cabals if I may so express my-
self. but others will tell thee of
this better than I can do. such sub-
jects have no interest for me -
they distress me - as lowering to
the individuals concerned &c.

them but I remember that it
was written "Offences will come."
All of these Friends are willing
that I should have my dear
little boy again. It was quite
against my own judgment to
reassign my dear child this en-
tirely into other hands. The
sympathy that existed between
us was beautiful. We were play-
fellows and companions in every
sense of the word. While it was
remarked by an intelligent person
"his mother is like an open book
to him," and the confidence he
reposed in me was complete.

I am afraid I shall appear to
you to write somewhat Confu-
sedly - but I saw so much
alone - and it seems as tho'

3 I had not one friend left
who ~~was~~^{is} such for my own sake.
After the death of my father
Jos. Pryor. My dear sister Mary wrote
I think it was before he was interred
and said that now more than ever
my dear child and myself should be
the objects of her especial care. She
has fulfilled her promise. But when
I was in Ireland in the summer of 1845
not fail to see and feel that the
young person who has so long shared
the responsibilities of her position
at Bloomfield is able & more than
a daughter can be to her. I felt
that I should never have the
same place in my beloved sister's
affection that I once had. The recogni-
tion of this overpowered me very
much. So much that it was in
vain to try to be with them. I could
not. I ^{at} once took another position

relative to my beloved sister, it
was a foreign and my heart would
not recognise it. When we had to
~~leave~~ ~~to leave~~ our little home at
Penketh. My husband desired me
to write to my brothers and ask
them to take my dear child and
myself - and this I thought they
had done - but at the expiration
of the vacation. They sent my poor
dear little Boy to Penketh School
and me to Bloomfield. I went more
as a visitor than a patient. but my
sympathy & fellow feeling with the
patients, made me involuntarily
identify myself with them. Dr Duke
was very kind but he told my sister
Mary it was not the place for me.

I want to have my dear little boy
rather more under my own influence
I desire the partial care of him -

Nothing soothes and interested
My mind in the way that the partial
Care of him did. his clothes had to
be made & repaired. And they
were always clean and in order

I covered indeed I made, standard
and all his Kites for him. I marked
out, and assisted him to chase
his little boats, and with him
I enjoyed their success, or regretted
their failure. We were one. So far
as we loved he. He was my comfort
my all. It had this cruel separa-
tion has wrought. I cannot tell thee.
It has divided us. it has thrown
me I cannot tell thee where. I do
not know what to do. My child
has doubtless suffered intensely, but
he is now comparatively indiffer-
ent ^{to me} he is allowed to spend
2 or 3 hours with me every 7th day

afternoon. but his clothes are all at
Schoab - he is so young - and I desire
to have him more with me that I may
help him to form personal habits
which he seems to have no idea of at
Schoab - he is a favorite with all -
but my brother seems to have formed
the determination that I shall have
as little to do with him as possible -
my eldest brother - thou wilt know
the one allude to - he is the writer of
the enclosed note seems to have be-
come lately much attached to my hus-
band - thou wilt perhaps remember
that I have before alluded to the un-
satisfactory state of his household
& premises - he has had Edward down
for several weeks this Autumn - or
rather Winter, and thou wilt hesitate
to believe it - but he requires his mental
mentality to effect the removal of
an objectionable woman and her
5 Children & servant from the inter-

4. Like neighbourhood of his house
I would not be here Misunderstood
We did not believe there was anything
wrong further than that she had
a singularly powerful influence
over my brother - that she was unques-
tionably a woman of bad principle
& that she set my brother completely
at defiance. It seems to be Edwards
high Moral Character that attaches
my brother to him. And altho Edward
is so peculiar. My brother John
seems almost to look up to him. May
quite so - while the pecuniary in-
dependence of my brother to say
to say the least of it pleasantly
Contrasts with my husband's poverty.
Thus then. I have no home - and be-
cause I cannot adapt myself to
the various suggestions of this & that
person I have hardly any friends
My Child is taken from me; and
with no motive whatever I am sold

by my brother John, to go and earn
my own living. I now appeal to thee
Dr Kitching as knowing my antecedents
Can I do it? What Can I do. My brother
John whose prejudices are fearfully
erroneous tells me to go out as a Nurse
I could not do it - what induce-
ment have I. I could labour for
my Child - I have promised that
he shall always be at school at
the proper time - if I may only have
him to care for as I had before - that
I may have the care of his clothes -
There are two children of friends in
this village who are allowed to attend
on these terms & why not my Child -
I want soothing - I have had sorrow upon
sorrow - why seek to torture my feelings
more and more. My brother John
says he has no power - that is not
correct - no one has so much influence
with the child's Father as my brother John.

I have seen personally each
of the Friends named in this on
the subject - and when I was weep-
ing very bitterly about it the
other evening - I exclaimed oh how
I wish Dr Kitching & Dr Williams
were here - Joseph Barlack who was
present said immediately could
thou not write to them - Hannah
Stretch who is on the Penketh School
Committee suggests that I should
also address a letter to it - I think
nothing could aid me more, than
for you to say you advise it - My
influence on my Child was salutary,
while his pleasant company
soothed & cheered me as nothing else
can - There is another subject also
that I most painfully advert to
It was the opinion of myself & Dr
Williams, that my dear Child would

not live to grow up. altho I have left
it so late unmentioned in this letter
it forms the basis of my anxiety.
he is weak. Very much so. Our
Medical Man who saw him last
^{says that he ought to eat plenty of animal food.}
Week says ~~that~~ ^{also.} he wants muscle - he
eats no animal food if he can avoid
it at school. I am not going to make
any complaint of the dietary of the
School. The children generally look well
but you will ^{be} more than prepared to hear
May Chied is not robust - he wants the
occasional care of his Mother. Canst
thou not believe this? and on this he.
liep Canst thou not recommend that
he should again be a Daily Boarder.
I think some consideration is due to my
feelings. I served my Brothers most
faithfully - they are both independent.
but, and would feel hurt if that were
the extent that could truthfully be
said of their circumstances. I am
not an idle person. What I do does

5. Not I admit tend to much -
but I do not allow myself to be
idle - I am not trivial either - I do
not permit myself to read trivial
works of any kind - On one occasion
when an inmate at York - I was quite
early in the morning arrested in
thought, by some queries that arose
in my mind respecting the Punitive
Code of our Country - it was then my
intention to have asked thee to solve
some grave doubts that I could not
do by my own reasoning - again &
again has that time recurred to me.
Very unexpectedly I have found
the answer I wished - Joseph Barlow
has lent me to read 2 interesting vols
"Our Convicts" by Miss Carpenter - I
have no one to converse to on the sub-
ject - but I am deeply interested.
I read the Morning Star daily -
I want something to test my

Mind. Some alleviation. this es-
pecially found with my dear little
boy for ^{my} Companion, of a Morning &
Evening - & then his Clothes & person
required my Care. It was an ill jud-
ged thing to separate us - My hus-
band has now a comfortable home
at Kendal - the best of his Furniture
is there - Strong & inexpressible affection
for my Child attracted me here, &
so where I may that follow me by
day by night - I hope thou wilt not
see any objection to advising that
he should be partially restored
to me. The general opinion of me
is that I am a person who has heavy
Views - but I am considered by all
who know me to be a thoroughly re-
spectable person - I have given no
occasion for a different opinion -
I think from what I have written
thou wilt see - how very earnestly

I desire my Child to be rather
more with me - Let him task for
my Chief Care & then I should be
easily removed of which I am very
apprehensive I shall have the
support of feeling I dis like I need
and I cannot help thinking some
consideration is due to my own
feeling - I am distressed - I am
quite alone - his Father is at Kennerd.
My Mother John is unworthily acting
a double part, he knows it - and I
appeal to thee whether I am in a
state of mind to bear it from him.
and my Child are the only relatives
who want any thing from them. I have
friends & the M. M. support him. I
have some small neat apartments
on Penketh Common - where I can walk
about quietly - Thou would greatly
oblige - if thou could assure my
brother John Rutter, that I cannot get
my own living - I am an intense admirer

of Nature - and at this present time
I often walk in the morning before
I take my breakfast - starting in the
morning twilight - about 1/2 past 6 o'clock
and this after a cold ablution from
head to foot - I mean my head ~~and~~ ^{also} ~~and~~
I only mention this to shew thee, that
I hardly receive from my brother what
is right - I do not ask them for money
and on this point I have no complaint
to make. I ask for my child as I had
him before the vacation - I ask it both
for him and myself - he is not yet
9 years of age. My brother desires
to get the child to himself - Consider-
ing all the past I cannot consent
to it - it is not right - I do not think
that C. W. & myself will assent to it -
I am not idle - I am knitting my 10 Stock
ing this winter - I confess I often feel above
my occupation - and I write under
the conviction that it is the object
of my cruel, cruel brother to keep my
dear child shut out as much as possible

6. It grieves my dear sister Mary
almost more than she can bear. &
it is a fact that he is not so kindly
considerate of her as he ought to be
nor has he been - Between her and
myself there is a most cordial feel-
ing - her interest and mine are
identical so far as I know, and it was
because I loved her so intensely that
I keenly felt the circumstance of
Dora Lamb's being true to her than I
could ever be - tho' I am sincerely
glad that she has some one to act
such a part by her. All I now ask
is that my dear child may be restored
to me. When I told thee I only pay 7/-
per week for my dear little apartment
that I do not take animal food or
sugar. nor any stimulants of any
kind & then when I follow my own
inclination I walk from 6. to 10 miles

every day. that I am sure no one
will complain of my conversation
or my habits. I cannot relinquish
the hope that it may yet be in
the power of Dr Williams & thyself
to render me some very essential
service, and by restoring my
dear child, soothe my feelings, which
I feel have been cruelly and ag-
gressively agitated by the unne-
cessary separation. Let me be
perfectly understood. I only want
to have ~~Dr~~ ^{him} home from about 9 or
1/2 past in the morning. until 6 or 5
o'clock in the evening: or I mean rather
this is the time he should be at school.
How can I strike out into any occupa-
tion alone and situated as I am
I believe it would be a moral impossi-
bility in my case. but I have no

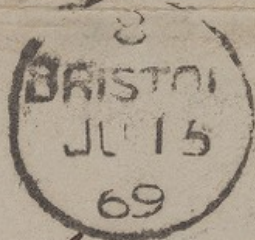
Conscience ^{to me} Medical Man to whom
I can apply. One of my brothers
is married - but has no family - the other
is unmarried. May I just add
that Joseph Barlack said the other
day - show art not known - persons
have not a correct opinion of thee.
It is a fact that my brother John does
not keep to his word - and my husband
begins at length to see, that he is
acting a double part - and that
he is the real Cause of all my in-
explicable suffering.

Will you close
imploing thee, that if thou canst
assist me to do so, and kindly to
use thy influence with Dr Williams.
I said to some extent it had been
tried to get me to Saltford - I was al-
ways so situated there, and under
such restrictions to my brother's
servants that I could not be with;

it was a house standing alone
and no opportunity was given me for
free social intercourse with my friends.

My brother John was afraid to per-
mit it - and now they have ~~the~~ ^{my} ^{children}
taken my children from me. I am sure
it is wrong. Will you kindly ascer-
tain upon what conditions he most
restored me, upon the result of
this letter I shall rest my hope
until I hear from thee. As to
any question the more closely that
all is investigated and scrutinized
concerning me, the better for me.
Tho' my object is only to have my child
restored to me that he may again be
a mother's ~~brother's~~ ^{brother's} influence - he is
young to be removed from it -

I am very respectfully with
kind remembrance to Eliza Kitching.
R. W. -



E. J. Kitching

Dr. Kitching
The Retreat
Weslingdon Road
York -

D
YORK
JUL 16
69

SALTFORD
A
JUL 15
69



Salisbury near Bristol 19/5/67

Esteemed friend

D^r Kitching

I much regret to have to inform thee
that my poor wife after gradually
improving for some months past so
that she could perform various domestic
duties very satisfactorily has recently
relapsed into a very trying state of
insanity so that during her excitement
yesterday she intentionally broke a
chair, spoiled her brother's hat which
was hanging near to her, struck violently
at the Barometer and would have
broken it but was restrained by those
around her, and broke her umbrella
stick &c, and spoke of two or three
sources of self-destruction but which
we think she never will attempt.
To day although more calm her mind
is both unsettled and excitable for
which I have to avoid being with her.

I should mention that for about a week my wife assisted and worked hard herself at cleaning the house painting &c during which she was better than usual although impatient at times. On 3rd and 4th day last a severe cold confined her in bed or to her room. On 5th day it was better, but although far from well she got up and went to Bristol (about 6 miles off) by rail on some errands and while there she lost her purse containing some 30s (we suppose her pocket was picked) which latter so greatly annoyed her that and she has thought so much about it since that her present apparent insanity may be attributable to that cause.

At all events her ~~state of~~ mind is now so unsettled that we including her brothers and sisters believe she ought to be under restraint.

But a difficulty occurs by her being here six miles from Bath Doctors who if they come out may at the time find her to be apparently well ~~but~~ in their absence she may again relapse into mental unsettlement.

Therefore we should like to have thine
and Dr Williams's opinions and advice
as to how we ought to act in our
present emergency. And in the meantime
a set of blank forms for her admission
to York Retreat may be sent to us.
We are now at my wife's brother's John
Ketter, Salford near Bristol and our
son aged 11 is doing well, happy, and in
good fair health at Sidcot School. and
is as active at play as most boys. but
his mother is dotingly fond of him and
always desiring to have him near to her
although he does not wish it.

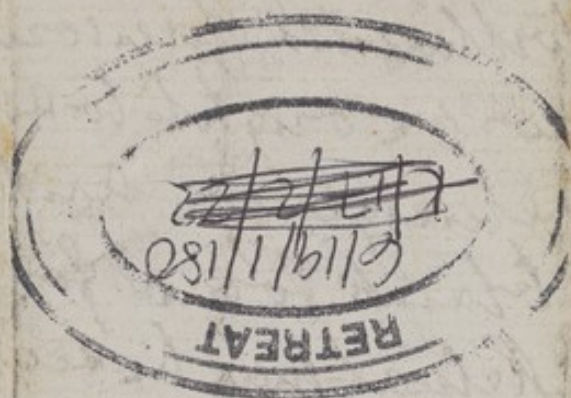
Waiting thy reply

I am respectfully

Edward West

Perhaps a line from thee to my wife
may help to calm her.

583



J. W. Hall
May 19-64

9 Mo 1st. 65.

Esteemed Friend

C. Williams

It is not painful
to me to avail myself of thy kind-
ness, but the subject upon which
I have to address thee is intensely
so - Last Second Month -

It has of course been necessary

that I should (tho it has not been
officially) be under the care of
some one. And the overseer of
his meeting has recently, as the
other overseer told me. Made a

most disgraceful failure. and
he is such a coarse man. that the
other evening I thanked him for his
past kindness but told him I could
not further accept it from him.

I wish I could see thee, if
only for an hour too. and I. B. also.
Saw not understood.

I read a good deal. I cling by
more than preference to such doctrine
as John Woolman promulgated &
believed in; and yet I am not sure
that I can or do live by it - I seem to
wither. Principles more than a
personal Deity. I do a good deal
of needle work. & then when I am
all alone utterly weary I take a stroll
and come back to my intensely lonely
room for I have only one room. It
seems as tho' the pressure on my
spirit was too heavy. I want sym-
pathy and companionship. I am not
able to control my feelings. & this is
why my family will not have me
with them - or near to them. People
do not seem to complain of me
fairly. But I am often treated rudely

I am not contented with my heart
is always yearning for something which
I cannot attain. Something higher &
better than I can find. I have nothing
to amuse ^{my} self with & reflect
until I cannot bear myself. Sometimes
I think, I know how it feels - a thing it is
To suffer & be strong.

And after all this when there seems
nothing but the same before me.

Will send this to the office. It does
not seem a proper business like
letter, still I fancy sometimes I
might be helped and that there
are those to kind & good who
would help if they knew what
I need - I have written as I feel.
I think if I were near her & or Kitching

is ~~done~~ very peculiar and ~~uncommon~~ ^{uncommon}.
 I should be so glad
 if I could see thee and
 catch up. I am losing all
 hope. My family have ~~dis~~ ^{dis} ~~re~~ ^{re}
 ed me. excepting my ~~dear~~ ^{dear}
 Mary. I am growing ~~more~~ ^{more}
 to like - those by whom I ~~am~~ ^{am}

I am afraid
 of ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~very~~ ^{very} ~~much~~ ^{much}
 of ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~very~~ ^{very} ~~much~~ ^{much}

R. W.

I have not ~~been~~ ^{been} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~place~~ ^{place} ~~fully~~ ^{fully}
 added to the - 10. 1865.

I believe thou

Am surrounded
and grieved by
they think I am
nothing more - I
want for my badge
Charles F. Smith
I have to duties in
that is to save all
want to ask these
one (because I feel
a great liberty this
whether I can
to the
and we
upon
C. F. Smith
I am so
God has
upon
reside
from

Restored to life. "Nothing
is impossible with God" - My
intellect is clear - I suffer be-
cause I am not understood.
My brother Chose to have my
Child at Penikese School. and
Chose to be near him - & the
place is unsuitable for me.
It is so very dull - I want help
they keep us here because it is
so inexpensive; but I think
they are not kind and just
to me. The people with whom
I am take advantage of me.
My husband is living at Kendal
with his married daughter - and
the friends required that the

Furniture should be sent there
so that I have neither home
or any thing to make home
of. My dear little boy and I
spent our vacation there. but
only as visitors. I was nothing
more than a visitor. I have
sacrificed every thing, but the
choice of keeping near my child
& now peace does not come to
me. My lodgings are very mis-
erable. Canst thou help ^{me?} I have
at the present time 5£ per month
with this I have hitherto supplied
myself and child with every thing
but that my brother made my hus-
band a present of 5£ in the vacation
and of that I had 3£ because I
paid all our travelling expenses.

6 Month 15th 1869

Dear Elizabeth Kitching

If I write a few
lines to thee it will answer
the purpose I believe quite as
well as troubling Dr Kitching at
this time. I would like to say
mine is not ordinary insani-
-ty I am persuaded - and I
might be made more com-
fortable than I am. When
I was so very sadly about
2 weeks ago - it was a family
gathering - I was not invited
to share in it - neither was my

child - while the children
of my niece & nephew were
welcomed with heart felt
pleasure - And my sisters'
And my niece came to call
on me, so full they seemed
of comfort and happiness
that I could not bear it -
And I became in describably
agitated - the emotion which
I felt was intense sified
anguish - I abused no one -
tho' I felt that I had been
& I still feel that I am cruelly
wronged - Wherever I am
there I am left - I am not

Cared for by the others, as
they care for each other - I am
shut out, and so entirely alone

My feelings will not admit
of my calling on any one so
that I am isolated. My brother
servants are not kind and at-
tentive to me - they would rather
I was not here. It is but likely
that constituted as I am I
should need some companionship

I am so select in my choice, that
it can only be very few - & I
sometimes think I am driven too
much to mental resources.

I read a good deal - and
it is generally such reading

As I hope may help me to bear
my lot - I should like to know
whether Dr Williams & Dr
Kitching would like me to re-
ly implicitly on these works
I will name to them -

Uphams' Hidden Life.

Uphams' Union with God.

Molinos' Spiritual Guide. to

Perfect Contemplation & the
rich treasure of Internal

Peace — Do they contain the
Truth? — Sometimes when I am
perusing them, I am so lost in
them - that I feel as tho' they do
really contain the Truth & then
under the influence of some

2 Slight Change in circum-
stances I fear I have been mistaken
& then there is the struggle of a
Mental Conflict - And I find
no one to sympathise with me -
I endeavour to cast myself
upon Principles - which I do
believe are unchanging and
unchangeable - but I meet
with so very few who think or
act as tho' they believed in the
same, - thus I am again alone -
Here the servants are so very
jealous at my being in the
house at all, that the only
outward feelings that I have
are from the prospect from
the window - I can walk out

And I sometimes walk 12 & 15
Miles in the day - the wearisome-
ness that naturally succeeds
such exertion as this makes the rest
of the next day or two grateful to me -
But it is hard willing to be thus ever
contending with destiny - I am crossed
on every side - and my energy baffles
my family - and I am most painfully
conscious of being held back - when
I am longing for progress - Oh I can -
not tell thee how very keenly I have
felt one circumstance that has oc-
curred in our family lately - A
respectable young woman about
36 years of age became attached
to our nephew who was about 22 -
he did not wish apparently to
marry her - but she persisted
in having him - she has a nice

Male property - he said to me
one day on my speaking to him about
it - "Aunt I would not have her
if there was not another woman in
the world" - however she was determined
to have him, tho' he is really what
may be termed a "very poor thing" -
he was dependant upon my brother,
so he said "well if she would have
him, she is welcome for I should
have him hanging on me all his
or my life" - it caused a good deal
of remark and gossip at the
time - My brother said he would
assist them - They are married,
and have a lovely child - and
she is received and put forward
by my family in a way that I am
not - They are living in such a
nice little cottage with a pretty

little chapel adjoining in
which she preaches - it is her
own - she is well pleased - and
so are all my brother's & sisters - who
are very kind to her and help them
I do not think my nephew is hap-
py - indeed I know he is not - he
only possessed the one intent
but I believed him to be an honest
lad, and so I still think he is -
I have had no home for 50 years
no companionship - all my friend-
- ships have died out - & they form
- ed the staple of my life - when
I saw near my dear child - I am
so uncomfortably situated & ever
alone, that I cannot bear it for
longer than about 2 months then
I break down - I become a cyriaic
- ed with every pleasant walk in

3 The locality - that lies within such
a proximity to my lodgings that
I dare venture alone - & then I seem
to need a fresh field of enterprise
My clothes are all in good order,
tho' entirely unallied to fashion -
This makes be singular - but I can.
not be fashionable - so that al-
together I am so low and lonely -
Those who have irrevocably in-
-jured me, are rising in the world -
have a good position in it - &
I am on the very lowest stage -
I am forced back - It is indeed
rough treatment - Will it ever
change - I assure thee dear E.K -
that sometimes every nerve seems
to throb with indignant agony
And I cannot help the emotion
that overpowers me - I am very

economical - so that without exceeding
the amount my brothers and sisters send
me when I am away or even asking them for
more, I contrive to supply my dear Child
with what little requisites a school-boy
requires - And now dear friend I think
I need not trouble thee much further.
When they told me whoever it was that
I must go to York again I said it is use-
less - because when I became calm I felt
that any less expensive change would
answer the same purpose - All my
friends now seem to be so unmeasur-
able above that there is ~~now~~ no hope
that I can ever occupy a moral or so-
cial position in the least approxi-
mating to theirs - I seem to be in poor
good health - yet I cannot stir myself
so actively as I long to do, I have no mo-
tive - and another thing no occasion
for it - I have no house or home - and
the Housekeeper here would not
allow me to do - she has allowed

4 Me to make a Meat Pie & 2 Tarts this
morning - and I am pleased to say
the former is fit to place on any
table - I am almost proud of it -
The Housekeeper does not treat me
handsomely - When my ladies &c come
down she is only a Confidential servant
toward them - while to me she is a su-
perior - And she makes feel it - Indeed
I often am sensible that I do not
feel as other women do - there is some-
thing that makes me feel beneath
them - and yet when I am really
wounded I feel above them - I often ex-
claim I am lost - and almost long
to cease to live - because I have no
hope that I shall be happier
while life lasts. No - never. I am
unhappy. That is my state - I do
not often feel courage to go to any
shop to get any thing - if I do I am
very apt to make some rather orci-

ginal observation - This rather flatters
me - still I never get into any diffi-
-culty & people are generally kind
and gentle toward me - but this
Housekeeper is jealous of me and
determined that I shall not be
here - She imitates me in my dress
that I do not care about. Dear E. K.
She is a respectable person and my
brother values her highly. but she
is excessively fond of him - he
once said to me that "she almost
worships him" when I told him how
unpleasantly she behaved toward me.
She has been and is a faithful
servant to him - Excuse me for
having troubled thee with this spite
I am sincerely with love.
H. West.

5.

There is one thing I should like to mention as clearly as I can - On my second indeed my first visit to York I think I understood it to be Sir W. & Sir R. advice that I should not live with my husband - I could not see myself but when he failed. The M. M. arranged that all that was left should go to his children - & for them to take care of him - for 18 months this plan was adhered to - and I remained near my child at Penketh. On our removal to this neighbourhood, my brother insisted on Edward West coming also - this greatly increased my difficulty - however I struggled on - and we are virtually separated & have been for near

ly 2 years - I have remained
almost entirely at Seidat, but
I deemed it want a change &
it was arranged for me to occupy
this room - I have been a great
deal better - but it is now return-
ing here and the attending cir-
cumstances and associations -
When the Education is over I shall
leave this place ^{but do not know where to go} - but I have
to have some place where I may
deposit the few things that be-
long to my dear child & myself
And my family will make no ar-
rangement for me until the
dear child leaves school - but
the loss to myself is disastrous -

6.

Dear E. Kitching I seem as tho'
I could not help struggling for some
- thing that is better than anything I can
find around me. I wish I could
lead a holy life. I am surprised
that such a thought should occur
to me. and really sometimes I almost
hope that I do sincerely desire it. but
then is it the Truth to endeavour
after it - I believe suffering has made
the things that can be bought with
gold quite distasteful to me. I ad-
mire works of art when intrinsic a
good deal. but when upon reflection
one comes to place them beside the
destitute and helpless of our fellow
creatures. it seems to me the latter
have the claim. that is if we be-
lieve in Jesus Christ - & God.

My heart is very full. I wish
I did not feel so lonely. I enjoy the
flowers very much. & the many
living animals around so well
Cared for it is pleasant to see
but it is all a blank - unless I
am with my fellow creatures. I wish
sometimes I could be associated
with naughty people. Those whom
Circumstances have caused to be
so - not the willfully deproved. -
I have a dread of those -
Ought I not to learn to be happy
quite alone - in this room quite
alone. Perhaps sometimes if
Thou hast a few minutes un-
occupied Thou wilt tell me - if
not I shall not think it un-
kind only that Thou thought it
best not to reply -

Esteemed Friend

Dr Kitching - Will thou be so

Kind as to read this communication
to the end - I am writing to thee
because it is probable in a few
weeks I may be removed to York.
I am surrounded by difficulties
in the midst of my family &
friends which I believe I should
feel less among strangers and
away from old associations -
My brother John Rutledge prevents
to have my husband live
with him - altogether my diffi-
culties are insurmountable -

I am better any where than
here. If I am placed un-
der the care of the M. Meet-
ing. it does not understand
me. and I am treated as
tho' I ought to be here -

I live alone, in one room day
& night - I am unhappy here

Every one I am thus bold to
say, admits that I am respectable

Dr. Williams - &
Dr. Kitching

Saltford —
th.
6 Month. 10. 1869.

Esteemed Friend

Dr. Kitching.

I think it is
likely, that before long, I
shall be placed at York, —

I cannot controul my feeling,
and I find myself less able
to do^{so}, when I am surrounded
by associations of the past —
In appearance, that is my feel-
ing — My Natural Love. seems
turned to hatred. but I am
sure

I do not hate my family &
friends - but I feel that
I know will understand all
this better than I can do &
when I have had some
conversation with my
kind friend Dr Williams
and myself - you will un-
derstand me I think -

I would rather not go into the
Retreat if it can be avoided.

I do not think I am needing
additional suffering -

Unquestionably I want help -

I think that Dr Williams

and myself will not be
hushes with me than you
can avoid - I am respect-
fully. H. West -

The associations in the
Retreat are so painful to me.
My Mental Vigour is less than
it was. Of this I am sensible

I have Ceased to be a wife for
12 or 18 months. I do not know
how else to write this - and I de-
sire not to have to make much
reference to it when I see Dr

Williams & myself - I can
control my feelings, when
they are not unfairly treated
which has been cruelly the
case lately -

6/11. 69 -

I cannot say what I desire
on paper - & yet I feel as tho I
must relieve my mind -



W. Kitching
The Retreat
Beshingdon Road
York-



1 Mo 23. 65-

I would just like to say that
on one or two occasions when the
Lever was in the School - my dear
little boy was allowed to come &
see me, and I took him back
myself because I would not
improperly oppose the wishes
of my friends - I trembled while
I did it - and when the door
closed upon him, in the
penitential atmosphere
in which I had placed him
I almost sunk the proud
Hannah Stetson has just
called and she says that
it is entirely my brother
John's doing - that Paul Evers

the Master or rather
Superintendent has received
a letter from John Rutter
desiring him not to give
me the Chieft. Saml Eversful,
for me and says he does
not like the position he
occupies - of course he can
judge of my management
of the Chieft by what he found
him, - and he has spoken of
him as an intelligent, so-
cile, amiable little fellow.

May not Medical jurispru-
dence be brought to bear
upon the subject - I am very
anxious about his death - he
grows very fast, and is so

My thin. He is particular
ly fond of reading - he lives
chiefly on Potatoes & pudding
& Bread - When he is with me
he enjoys plain nutritious
Soup - and eggs - and bread
Cheese which they do not have
at School - I wish it to be un-
derstood I do not complain
of the School - I only desire that
my Child may be a Daily Boarder.
I feel as tho' I should be almost
~~less~~ insulting thy judgment
and kindness if I offered
an apology for this letter.
Tho' I am not ~~less~~ insensible
to the liberty I am taking -

My brother John does not
know what he is doing. I
am so distressed that I can
not sleep - and when the
little fellow is with me now
& then I am happy - all
the friends here are more
than willing that I should
have him. It is my cruel
brother. Oh, he is so hard &
so cruel toward me - he pays
in part for the Child School
ing. I think they should try
to soothe me. Do what thou
canst to save my child, please
for me - I have nothing to do &
what can I engage in -

31-
Saltford. 1^{Mo} 28th 70
Second Day -

Esteemed Friend

Dr Kitching -

I am not a suitable subject for York Retreat, but I am so miserably situated here that I write to ask thee, if I can be admitted for a time in order that I may be away from the wretchedness that surrounds me in this place -

I feel fully assured that
thou wilt be fully satisfied,
that I have done all I can,
toward my own restoration,
morally - but I now ask
a mitigation of the suffer-
ing I have here - the circum-
stances that surround me
with their associations are
intolerable to me. I came

here quite well, with my dear
Child a few weeks ago - his
vacation has been a little
lengthened on account of his
not being quite well; but
the effect on me has been dis-
astrous - still I have borne on
without excitement - I am not
personally restrained, but
it is very much like it -

Some few weeks ago, I was
speaking to the Olcese who

Is an intimate friend of
mine, and many years youn-
ger than myself, of the de-
ficiency that still exists
in my Character. When
she replied - "if there were
a little more ballance of
feeling I think she would
be almost perfect." I
merely mention this for
thee to see Dr Kitching

At John Rutters'

Saltford. Nr Bristol

Esteemed Friend

(2-17. 71.

Dr Kitching

I am conscious that
thy engagements are important
and numerous; but I want thee
to read this note. I will endeavor
to write concisely-

My brother John
Ruttes of Saltford is a ruined
man - and I am feeling more
indignant than words will de-
scribe. How art aware what
a terrible & malicious circumstances
placed me in; - by every means
in my power I have exerted
myself to throw off the moral

degradation in which my
brother's conduct directly &
indirectly had placed me
and morally Dr Kitching I
believe I am well - to keep
near my dear child I am
for the present obliged to
live in the same house as his
Father does - tho' quite apart
I live upstairs - John Rutter
has become much attached
to Edward West - I believe
from the fact that he is a
Man of such sterling integri-
ty - and my dear child is
become his almost constant
Companion - I always take

My meals alone - but I am
very unhappy - I am able to
keep my person and wear-
ing apparel perfectly clean
and in order - but I have
no social surroundings - My
mind preys upon itself -
I long to have some pursuit
that shall raise me a little
above the entirely uneducated,
or that I may have some object
in life - However I imagine
this state of things is compre-
hended by thee - I will therefore
continue the subject with
which I commenced this
sheet - The defalcations

• of John Ruttes are to be
met by Saml. Ruttes his bro-
ther = "who" Saml told by one
of the family, "Cannot and
will not allow the name
of the family to suffer, as
would be the case, if John
Ruttes liabilities were ex-
posed = "It is true the name
stands high in Ball and
the neighbourhood and this
proceeding on the part of
my brother Saml. will doubt-
less tend to secure its fair
name = but it seems to me
that it will most materially
affect the interest & comfort

24 right
of others who are seeking
and wishing for something
more substantial than a
glazed or gilded name.

I trust and believe my
Integrity of Character is sincere
so far as the dreadful cir-
cumstances of my early life
will admit of its becoming -
but I am steeped in poverty
I live in this one room & this
is the best I have occupied
for years. Some thousands
of the family estate were
sacrificed a few years ago
when the family of my dear
Sister Ann Mullinson

needed it - and now
here is another demon.

20 years about, ago, John
Ruttie came to this Farm, (a
very nice farm of 500 acres),
with a Capital of about
4000 £, and commenced
as a retired tradesman &
gentleman Farmer - he
leaves it at the end of
the year - a ruined man -
The losses to be met by a
brother - upon whom and
my dear sister Nancy now
70 years of age - he modest
ly and cheerfully becomes

dependent - I find it
extremely difficult to con-
troll the indignant emotion
that I feel - I regard his
character with such utter
contempt that I am almost
apind of myself - He has had
no family expences like
most men - no wife, no
child - His errand and
old House Keeper have
occupied the places of these
I feel so little sympathy
for him, that my heart seems
stealed - and I wish I was
far away from here - but I do
not know where to go suitably

This man has been the
ruin and the misery of my
life - and now he comes to live
upon the honest and well
secured means of a brother &
sister - He has lived for no
Moral end - an intelligent
Animal - but not a man -

Some of my friends are kindly
endeavouring to secure me
a part of E. Binham's legacy
Should I do so I should think it
misapply a portion of it, by
seeking a change for myself
and could I then sanction my
going to York for a time -
not to the Retreat, as I appear

3 I find I now would think it
perfectly needless. I do so long
to be away from these painful
associations - and it is distress-
ing to regard my brother with
the feelings which with which
I do. I am very much aged -
in every respect - have lost
nearly every tooth, and can
no longer walk as I once
did. My feelings are so very
bitter toward John Ruttie -
I regard him with pityful
contempt - Arrangements are
now to be made which to the
world will place him in
the position of a retired

Gentlemen - and during
the 18 years that he has been
messing away these many
hundreds of £s I have been
struggling and denying
myself almost necessities.
for 18 months, with only a
loft for my bed - no wings
or shawl for my fire - no
carpet on the floor of the
one room I dwell in - I scorn
him - and the end of life
so near - !

I am very respectfully
Yrs. West.



John Ketching M. D.
Resling Dow Road
York



