

Papers relating to Joseph Woolley junior

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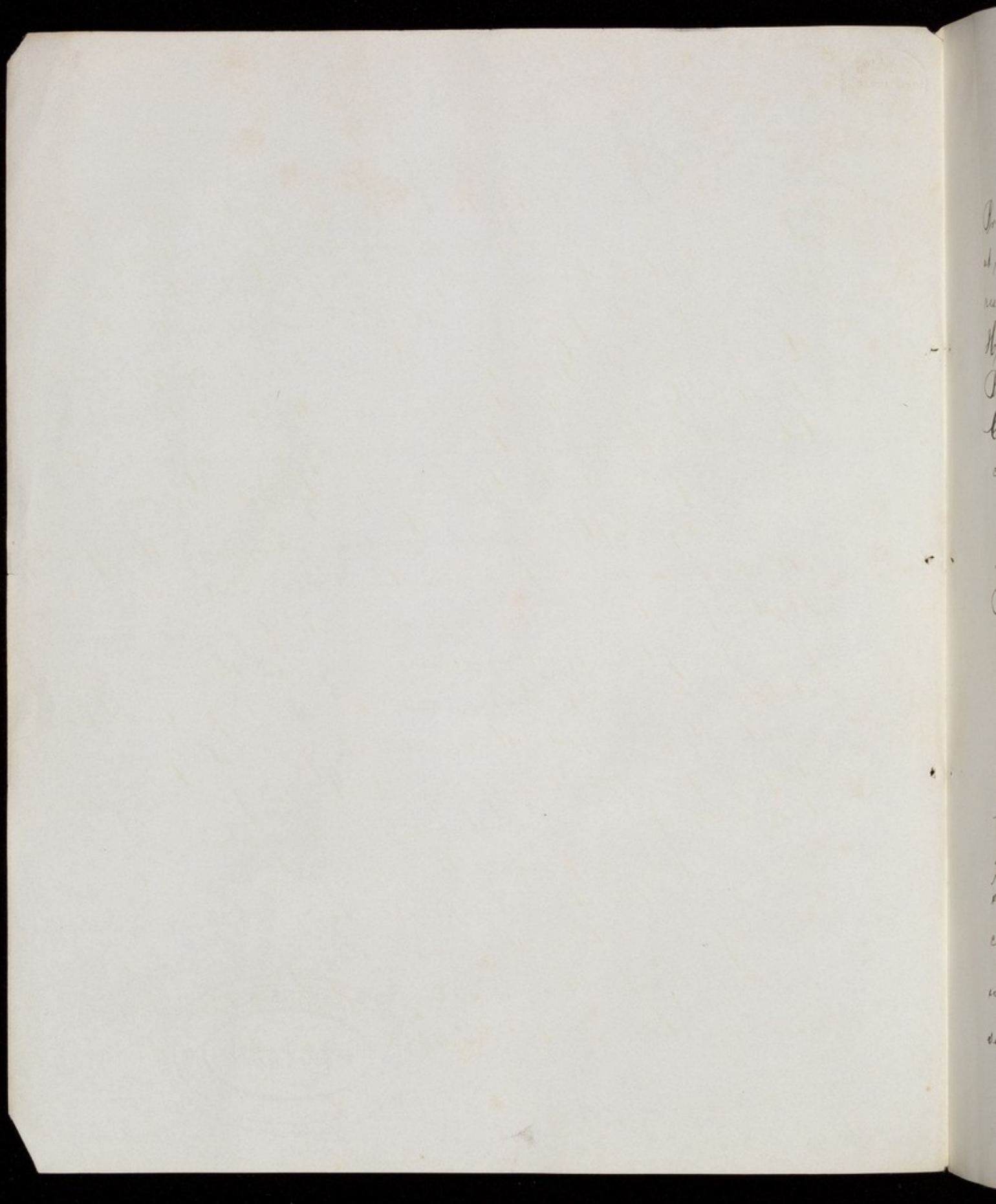
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On leaving the Retreat (May 1846) with my Brother Thomas I found my two Sisters Mary & Eliza at my Father's house. My youngest Sister Emma was residing for the present with her married sister Hannah Hutchinson at Gedney in Lincolnshire: - my youngest Brother George at Maidstone in Kent. in business as a Chemist & Druggist having recently succeeded to the concern of his Uncle by marriage George Smith. --

My Father was in London attending the Yearly Meeting; - and, visiting elsewhere did not return to Blyth for three weeks or more; - which period was one of uninterrupted quiet and enjoyment in the home of my childhood. - My Sisters and Brother expressed how much they enjoyed these intervals from the peace destroying peculiarities of my Father's disposition. In a brief letter from my Father to my eldest Sister which was given me for my perusal he wrote "Should we have occasion to trouble them (the Retreat) again I think good may come of it." I had the satisfaction of seeing in a letter written by Dr Thurnam to my Sister Eliza that he had seen neither mental weakness nor disorder in
me

me whitest. I had been at the Retreat. Before my Father's return I had aided a little on the farm, looking after the sheep morning and evening; and, occasionally lending a hand in other work going forward, which was, manure filling as they were preparing the land for turnip sowing. Then came hay season to which I also gave a hand. but my Father soon began to complain that I did not do enough. - I believe much against the feeling of the other members of the family then at home. However on hearing of complaints having been uttered. I set to work in good earnest & laboured hard through hay time as well as harvest, under many disheartening circumstances. Then came turnip hoeing at which I also worked well. Turnip hand weeding followed. trying work for one unaccustomed for many years to wield a tool heavier than the steel pen. After this came the feeding of stock sheep and cattle. My Brother as customary had the sheep entirely under his own management. my Father debiting him with the buying in cost and the current price per acre of turnips - the former finding the labour. I desired to have the management of feeding the beasts. but a man was engaged

engaged for the purpose - whom I used sometimes to
 assist though he did not require it - feeling that there
 would be no satisfaction unless I were doing some-
 thing. I also weeded and kept in order the kitchen
 garden - gathered the orchard fruit &c. I exerted my-
 self to make things run smoothly by turning my
 hand to almost anything that offered. dug the potatoes
 and gathered along with other labourers - and have
 even by my Father's order taken a barrow to the
 field and gathered the scattered ones on the surface
 of the soil - after being harrowed and when the barrow
 was full wheeled it home myself - and he would be
 jocular on coming down and seeing me engaged in
 so menial an occupation. When working on the corn-
 stack - he would stand by alternately joking or scolding
 James Copley the farmer man. All instructions about
 the work were given to him a very ignorant but hard-
 working man - and I merely assisted in the capacity
 of a labourer. At meal times I long endeavoured to
 enliven the ^{occasion by} conversation generally the topic to agricul-
 ture in which I was disposed and do feel a great
 interest

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interest. My brother though agreeable to was unable to support
me in these efforts for intellectual elevation: always consid-
ered rather deficient and by habit completely under the
control and influence of my Father he was unable to lend
me that assistance which the purity of my motives deserved.
My Father spent too much of his time at the Cottage
adjoining the farm yard in the company of the farmer
man's wife - a young woman uneducated but of a lively
turn of disposition. This circumstance has been the
cause of grief and complaint to more than myself - espe-
cially as on taking his seat in his own room every
avenue to social conversation appeared to be shut up.
I have too to complain of his ungentlemanly behaviour
at meal times in the invidious distinction he made
in the distribution of food - more of the method than the
fact of being served with the worst parts of the meat. I was
usually served last. He would sometimes cut the outside
parts or hew off a bone and send it to me; or, at breakfast
the yellow corner of the bacon. On these occasions I was
often served out of my turn. God knows I am not fastid-
ious about my food - but this uncourteous behaviour
wounded me much. He would often imperatively order
me to reach him the bread from the side table during
dinner time. All the wearing apparel I had had made
were two pair of working boots and two pair of fustian
leggings

leggings. I required a strong light coat to work in and after communicating with my sisters relative to this important subject (for all matters of even absolutely necessary expenditure were regarded in this light) one was ordered & obtained. My Father had seen me working in this coat & expressed no observation upon it - but when the bill came in - he in the presence of us all took occasion to allude to it - and in a passion threw the bill on the floor and said "pay your own bills" the bill some thirty shillings was afterwards settled. I frequently tried to engage my Father in conversation either without avail or receiving a rebuff. These habitual disagreeables combined with the manifest disposition to make me appear as insignificant as possible at length began to prey upon my nerves - and it became positively painful to me to sit down to meals when my Father was there. As the days shortened we arranged to read for half an hour in the evening - from seven to half past. I was usually the reader. The work agreed upon ~~was~~ Dan-berney's History of the Reformation. My Father so far from seconding this practice - would break in upon us by calling attention to some business matters. At length I found my nervousness so far increase that I was unable to perform the office of reader, and, though punctual as a listener the practice was soon discontinued. I became seriously

seriously indisposed - and kept my room for several days. when my eldest sister for many years an invalid but considerably convalescent of late gave up to me the par-
 parlour where I could have a fire, the weather being very cold and there being no fire place in my bed room. This parlour I occupied both as sitting room & bed room until I came to York. The retirement I there enjoyed for I took all my meals in my own room - restored my nervous system - severely shaken through my desire to preserve the natural & very desirable relation of a son towards a father. For obvious reasons I had moved very little in the society of either the village or neighbourhood, but having ceased doing any work on the farm. though I made myself acquainted with all that was going on as far as practicable. for I had no intercourse with my Father and but little with my Brother, - I found it imperative to make the acquaintance of a few families for the purpose of social relaxation. With one especially - old friends of the family now in the third generation - the Parkins of Plyth Mill a mile distant from our house I took a pleasure in visiting. Christmas eve they spent at our house along with the few Quaker friends who lived in the village,
 and

and on a subsequent day myself brother & sister went there to meet a small party. — I was much welcomed by the excellent Father three lovely daughters and a young son constituting this family. For the eldest daughter I entertained a special regard — so much so that after several visits I did not think it prudent on my own account or honorable towards the kind parent of this young lady to continue going there until the former was acquainted with the bent of my feelings — which was eventually done through the medium of my eldest sister — not being in a position to make any such steps myself unless my Father would do something for me which with such an eligible prospect I thought he might be induced to do. In this step I consulted a female friend a widow to whom my Father some years back made proposals of marriage — who, being in humble circumstances but knowing the severe trials of my much and deservedly beloved mother — having declined the honor has since felt the effects of his vindictive spirit. Thomas Parkin is a man of good worldly substance and this friend informed me that my Father was reputed to possess fully equal means

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means. In consequence of the communications of my sister to
Thomas Parkin he addressed a letter to my Father - conclu-
ding with the expression that he could not consent to any
such connexion "unless Mr Joseph were a different man to
what he has been for some years past." In a few days
after I thought it desirable to address a letter to Tho-
mas Parkin in reply - copy of which is annexed - without
date - but it was written to the best of my recollection
in the early part of February.

Dear Sir

Your letter to my Father was put
into my hands - its contents did not at all surprise
me. Allow me to thank you for the benevolent
tone in which it is written mingled with that pru-
dence which though it may be the destruction of
my hopes I trust under God will ever guard your
precious treasures.

It was far from my wish that
you should have been put to the trouble of coming
down into Norway on my account - I desired my
eldest Sister to communicate to you personally the

To
Thomas Parkin Esq.

Yours
Gent

bent of my feelings ever calling at your house once more and though I offered to accompany her with the walking stick chair she seemed unable to make the attempt. - of the second requisition for your coming down to Worney I was not at all cognizant and was grieved for you.

Respecting your daughters regard for me had I dared to hope for more than that she was not indisposed to entertain a more favorable opinion of me I should have been presumptuous and if she knew me as I know my own heart she surely would.

Respecting my past career I have been emphatically the creature of circumstances - for my heart beats now as true to virtue & for the path of true happiness as it did sixteen years ago - with this essential difference making security doubly secure - that having passed through all the avenues of life that tend to debase the mind I have come out unscathed. that is - my tastes - my love of truth honor and purity - stand unquestionable. Among all my gay associates wherever they have been these attributes allied to a thoroughly independant spirit have ever commanded their affectionate esteem. I have never violated the marriage bed - not for want

want of opportunity or inducement - and a single case of seduction ranks not amongst my sins. Thank God I have no illegitimate child nor likely to have. By design you have seen the lightest part of my character & my demeanor to your daughter has been blunt bordering on rudeness.

I remain (Dear Sir)
with affectionate regard
for yourself and family
Your sincere friend
Joseph Woolley Jr.

at this juncture it was that I was first introduced to Dr. Mower - a name I had heard frequently mentioned as combining great intellectual acquirements with a copious facility of expression. I first heard him spoken of in this light at Maidstone by my brother George who had evidently listened with delight to his lectures on total abstinence - but qualified his panegyric with the remark that he was not all right. But being himself still very young and not having seen Dr. Mower since the age of eighteen - the observation had little weight with me, especially as I make it a rule never to judge another hastily and on no better ground than a casual report. With the exception of occasional remarks from my sister Eliza who though she admitted

admitted him to be her beau ideal of intellectual majesty allowed that the demon of evil dwelt there. The next time I heard his character named was by my eldest Sister Mary when complaining of the neglect shown her when seriously ill - she said - and that too in the presence of Eliza the party who sent for Mower in consequence of Mr Russell's alledged neglect - "that an unprincipled man was call'd in and continued to attend her" This gentleman was introduced to me one Sunday evening. I was first informed that he was in the parlour by my Sister Eliza supposing it to have been a casual call (though he had not I understand been in the house for several years in consequence of Eliza sending him a note in reference to a fresh report that had reach'd her ears about him) I said I should be glad to see him in my room - and he was introduced as arbitrator between myself and father as to what he could or would do for me pecuniarily. I received him frankly and cordially - gave him a rapid sketch of my life to which he listened attentively & observed in conclusion (in which remark I fully unite) that I had been the creature of circumstances. A few days after this my brother in law from Gedney came over Tracter Hutchinson who in conjunction with Mower & my Father were to arrange matters. Mower at this time had disposed of his

his practice and was on the eve of quitting his house at Hbrasock, about two miles from us. We had difficulty in getting him over to meet my brother in law. I called upon him on Sunday morning and he agreed to come to dinner - and came - he and my brother in law visited me after dinner and it was arranged that I should go and live with Mower at Sheffield and he would introduce me to parties there for the purpose of obtaining some situation. I expected to go to Sheffield in a few days. I was to be allowed all necessary expenses through Mower - and after I had got a situation a sum that would render me partially independent of the caprice of my employer - as long as I felt to require it. To this liberal arrangement, though it would have been more in accordance with my feelings to have remained in the country & been a farmer if such could have been arranged. I could not well do otherwise than close in. Dr Mower engaged to go down in the beginning of next week to Liverpool to see Messrs Harrison Ridley & Harrison respecting the sum of money I was minus in their employ when a few years ago under the pressure of circumstances I absconded and went to China. The sequel will shew it almost needless to say this he never did. The annexed letter will give the

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the history of the following fortnight.

Sir,

I beg to refer you to our last interview of Sunday evening week when you proposed seeing me again on the following Tuesday. On the Wednesday I called upon Mr Ward at your late residence & found that you had left for Sheffield - that Hodsock could no longer contain your vigorous and capacious intellect nor boast of your beautiful daughter. On Thursday of the same week my sister Eliza had the honor of receiving a letter from Miss Mower informing us that we were not to expect you before Friday or Saturday - a week since the time named by her has now passed but no Dr Mower. I understand my Father says you must have gone to get married - be that as it may no doubt your reasons are all sufficient - but let me hear from you if you are above ground informing me when you will take me under your auspices. ~

This noon the second time since you left. I called upon Mr Ward - a younger brother is

To
Dr Mower

now

now residing at his house who appears to be an invalid.
Mr Ward your successor was out - but a fair young lady
his sister informed me that Dr Mower had not been
at Hodsock since my last call.

Please present my compliments to
Miss Ashwell and Miss Mower. -

Anticipating the day - when, ~~my~~^{my}
through your generous and enlightened spirit - under the
guidance of that unseen and inscrutable being whom
we acknowledge - but who - in his indisputable wisdom
prefers keeping behind the scenes to be placed on a
footing when I may subscribe myself your friend -
at present allow me to be

Sir,

Your most obedient

humble servant

Joseph Woolley Jr.

A few days after writing the foregoing letter to
Sheffield I received one in reply which as I haven't it
by me I suppose must have been destroyed. It was
somewhat ambiguously worded - but stated that the
writer had been "anxiously hoping for the satisfaction"
of my society & that he hoped a short residence at
Sheffield

Sheffield, would alleviate the poignancy of my present position & purposed being at Rlyth on the evening following the day on which I received the letter.

A fortnight however elapsed ere he came - he called as driving by and requested my company with him to Harworth a village two & a half miles off - on some registering business. I accompanied him and he spent that evening at our house - about three quarters of an hour with me and the remainder in the parlour with the family. He left about ten o'clock for Worksop first coming into my room along with Eliza and while standing together before his departure - put & kept his arm familiarly round her neck - at the same time decanting on the superiority of women in intellectual capacity over men - I replied that I had no objection to his entertaining the sentiments he expressed. I mentioned this little circumstance as possibly an inference may be drawn therefrom favorable to the object I have in view. I manifested no displeasure at this familiar treatment of my Sister - or at the opinions expressed - but on his departure - spoke to her on the subject - she said she permitted it for my benefit. I told her never under any circumstances to let me see anything of the kind again. that I would receive no benefit of Dr Mower or any other man at the expense of the respectability of

of a Sister - that such conduct so far from being favorable to me would be the reverse. She earnestly promised that nothing of the sort should occur again. Still nothing was arranged about my going to Sheffield - and I began to entertain faint hopes that anything would arise from this quarter for my good & wrote to Procter Hutchinson to that effect. He would always leave the impression that in a day or two the event would be accomplished but I found by experience independently of what I had heard from parties that knew him - that no faith could be attached to his promises. I talked the matter over with Eliza & told her that if he came again and left things as indefinite as before - I should forward him a note on the following day - releasing him from his promises &c. With this view she seemed to fall in & I understood that my eldest sister did so too. We heard nothing more of him to the best of my recollection for about a fortnight when he and his daughter paid us a visit. I found an opportunity in the course of conversation of delicately informing him - that my faith in him was giving way in consequence of my experience of the past - he evidently felt awkward under the imputation - however all passed off pretty smoothly. It was arranged I afterwards understood that Miss Mower was to pay our family a visit. Though Mower had taken a house at Sheffield it appeared he

he had been very little there and was at this time living at a Temperance Coffee house Worksop seven miles from Blyth Miss Mower being on a visit with a late school friend in the same Town and in whose establishment the former's Uncle was foreman. This young lady about seventeen was engaged in making out and collecting her Father's accounts whilst he was at the Coffee House or at Nottingham living with the widow of a Chemist & Druggist who by report & from letters which Miss Mower since did me the favour of allowing me to read he is engaged to marry as the writer already subscribed herself her loving Ma.

In pursuance of my previously expressed intention - on the day after Mower with his daughter returned to Worksop - I wrote him a note as under.

Sir,

I beg to inform you that I release you from every obligation in virtue of your promise to forward my views in any way through a residence with you at Sheffield.

The prospect of your fulfilling your expressed intentions appearing as remote as when you first made the proposal and having from grievous experience lost all faith in any possible advantage which

To
Mr Mower
Temperance Coffee House
Worksop

can accrue from further negotiation on the subject. I have to request that you will consider yourself released from any connexion with the family of which I am a member in reference to the question upon which you were I understand professionally called in

I remain, Sir,
Your most obedient
humble servant

Joseph Woolley Junr.

By the same post I sent off a letter to Procter Hutchinson as under - enclosing a copy of my note to Mower

Dear Brother

I beg to enclose a note forwarded to Dr Mower by the same post. Also an interesting *document from thy wife.

He and daughter were here yesterday - and it is high time to close accounts with him as he is like the Will'O'Wisp as far from being grappled with as ever. He bears a low character in this neighbourhood. I think I may say universally and is considered remarkably consistent only in his utter disregard for his promises - so that - provided he would do

To
Procter Hutchinson

* The letter of my Sister H Hutchinson

do what he has promised which I do not believe, I think little good could be expected from such a connexion. I spent last evening with (Dr Ward wife - sister & some friends who say that he is not a man of bad principle but of no principle whatever.

Dr Mower being settled with it remains to be considered what is to be done & thou appears to be the only person connected with the family to whom I can look for exercising anything like a right influence here.

I remain

thy affectionate Brother

Joseph Woolley Jr

after writing the note to Mower Eliza came into my room and I either read it to her or gave it to her to read. It seemed much to perplex her & she endeavoured to dissuade me from sending it. and after all her motives had failed to accomplish this - she brought me a letter received from Hannah Hutchinson - a very unkind one I thought & moreover discovered that Eliza had been acting deceitfully with me - and taken advantage of my frank and open dealings with her. My sister Hutchinson though complaining of Mower's tiresome behaviour enquired if he had signed the certificate. The perusal of this letter vexed me much. Eliza was sitting in front of the fire & myself at the side. I said "damn you all you are all alike" at this as the event proves she went & reported that I had been very violent.

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violent whereas the exclamation was only accompa-
nied by a push with the foot with slippers on against
the side of the chair seat which neither upset the chair
nor sent her off the seat. My brother was immediately
dispatched to Worsop for Mower who came before
he had received my note. In the afternoon Eliza
in a way most disagreeable to me ^{asked} if I were aware
Dr Mower was here. I informed her that it would
not be agreeable to me to see him and also that if
he attempted to come into my room I would use
physical force. The following letter I found upon
my table after being out.

April 16th 1847

Sir,

I am extremely concerned to find
that you have suffered your feelings to become
alienated from those friends, who have so faithfully
fulfilled their duty - and shown their strength of
attachment to you, throughout the lengthened period
you have thought fit to call upon them for their
sympathy - and also though of the least possible
importance to me, that you should so far forget the
demeanor of a gentleman, as to send me a message
of the character I received last night. Be assured
I can only feel pity for any party so far forgetful
of self respect - while at the same time I beg to in-
form you - that I am utterly regardless of threats from
any quarter more especially in the execution of duty.

Mr J Woolley Junr

With

With these few remarks allow me to come to the matter at issue. I am compelled to confess that the violence of your behaviour, yesterday, has forced me into different views of your mental condition - and it will now become necessary to speak in language, that you will, not perhaps greatly relish. You are aware I am sure, that nothing but kindness dictates the steps now proposed to you - for acceptance - and I do hope your judgment will be sound enough to adopt some one of them, without unworthy hesitation. In the first place then, as your proposed journey with me is at an end - will you choose a medical man, under whose care you would like to place yourself - or prefer for a time, a residence ~~for a time~~ with the highly respectable character who manages the Retreat - or lastly - and to my mind far the best, at once determine upon a return to the usual habits of your family - with an endeavour while you remain at home, to make yourself really one of their number. I may step aside to assure you that the last alternative will go far to make up for many hours of uneasiness your previous behaviour has produced. One of these steps must be adopted - the peace of your kind family imperatively requires it - and I shall wait with anxious interest the result of your deliberations.

Believe me to remain
very truly & affectionately yours
Chas C Mower

The same evening as taking a walk I was overtaken by Mr Ward a young surgeon successor to Mr Mower who invited me to ride with him to his house - his wife and sister had gone out & an opportunity so eligible I embraced of making him acquainted with what was going on - and gave him Mower's letter to read on concluding he observed that he thought Mr Mower a more fit subject to be placed under control than me. On Mr Ward's taking to Mower's practice the latter engaged to introduce his successor to his connexion - and on going to Sheffield promised to return on the following day - whereas he neither saw nor heard from him for a month - & at this time had not fulfilled his engagements. I proposed to Mr Ward that I should be placed under his care he laughed and said that were he a bachelor nothing would be more agreeable to him - but must consult his lady. The following morning I handed through the maid servant who waited on me the following note to Mr Mower

Sir,

In reply to your letter I beg to state that I am willing to be placed under the care of Mr John Ward Surgeon Hodssock provided satisfactory arrangements be made

I remain

Sir

Your most O^bt

humble servant

Joseph Woolley Jr

To
Mr Mower

I saw Mr & Mrs Ward two days after having seen the former alone & the result of their deliberations was that they must decline taking me in the way proposed but would be most happy to have me on a visit for a while. In consequence of this the following note I wrote to Mr Mower still residing at our house - which a day or two after drew forth the reply also annexed. - this reply was brought over to me to Hodsock. having availed myself of Mr & Mrs Ward's kind invitation

Sir,

The proposal for my going to live with Dr Ward not turning out feasible - I beg to agree to the second alternative that of again joining the family at meals under certain necessary conditions viz -

That I be allowed at the rate of thirty pounds a year while I remain at home. commencing from the date of this - not being liable for any little account[†] in the village at present unpaid. - the first instalment of ten pounds to be paid into my hands forthwith and the remainder on demand as I may require it - or, upon my order made payable to any tradesman or other person with whom I may have dealings.

That

To
Mr Mower

* a pair of shoes

That my movements be left free and
unrestricted & that I be at liberty to lend a hand to any
operations that are going on on the farm as it may appear
to me to be suitable or agreeable

I remain

Sir

Your most obedient

humble servant

Joseph Woolley Junr.

Blyth Normay
18th April 1847

Blyth Normay 20th April 1847

Sir,

I laid the letter you did me the
favour of addressing to me yesterday - before your Father
The terms on which you express your readiness to relinquish
your late exclusiveness, have been duly considered by
him, and he feels fully convinced you must have forgotten
the conversation held with you, by your brother in law,
as an agreement on the part of your Father to your demand
would entail upon him the charge of injustice to the
rest of the members of your family - to each of whom
he considers himself amenable for the proper distribution
of the means placed at his disposal. You will therefore
understand that he does not so much dissent from the
nature of your demand as from its extent - while at
the same time he would expect that every amount of
service

Mr J Woolley Junr

service, in your power, should be cheerfully rendered for the accommodation afforded - under even a reduced view of your proposition. He desires me however to state to you that the character of your late behaviour has been such, that it would conduce more to the comfort of all parties, were you to board at some respectable place in the neighborhood while some situation (of which there appears a probability) can be procured, in which by the exercise of your own abilities - you would be enabled to provide for your own wants - a nice and comfortable home has been discovered, in a healthy situation, which you can take possession of any day, and I am instructed to inform you that any arrangements not agreeable for you to make with your father, personally, can be effected through the medium of your mutual friend Mr Hudson. I trust you will render a cheerful acquiescence to this plan, and restore that harmony to your family which these unfortunate misunderstandings have so greatly diminished.

believe me to remain
 Sir/ Yours most truly
 Chas C Mower

On the day after receiving the foregoing letter I went home & from thence walked over to Harworth to look at the lodgings alluded to - I found a comfortable sitting room & bed room in the house of the parish school master.

They were evidently decent respectable people from the appearance & behaviour of the woman I saw - who also took charge of a number of clean & interesting looking girls.

Mrs Barber for that was the name informed me that she had on the previous day engaged her rooms to a man and his wife for a fortnight at which time the parties would enter upon their vocation in the same profession as themselves in a neighbouring village when the rooms would be at my service. I promised that in case I should decide before that period not to reside with them I would let them know through some medium if not by a personal call - until such time however they might consider it likely that I should become their lodger. On my return home I communicated to my Sister Mary what had passed & enquired if there would be any objection to my engaging other apartments in our own village or elsewhere provided I could meet with any to my mind not exceeding the price of those at Harworth - I did this partly on account of my not having much inclination for the locality of Harworth - but chiefly from the surprise and disappointment manifested at the lodgings being engaged for a fortnight. This request on being communicated to my Father was acceded to and accordingly I made some enquiry in Blyth, and succeeded so far with a respectable couple (in my Mother's time near neighbours of ours) as that they would give me a reply

in two days and I promised to call on Saturday night - the day being Thursday. They had not purposed again letting their rooms & said they would not do it to any one else & had refused several applicants - one a female friend to my knowledge. Eliza having called about them. I returned to Hodsock that evening remained the night and completed my visit to Mr. & Mrs Ward on the following morning. On Friday I was again resident in my Father's house - on the previous Wednesday he had brought Miss Mower home with him from Worksop market to pay her visit. I had an interview with her on Thursday forenoon eer going to Harworth to look at the lodgings. She informed me that her Father purposed giving up his house at Sheffield & residing at Nottingham - and it was elicited that Mower knew this when on my last interview with him he still talked of Sheffield as the place to which I might expect to go. I told her (on the subject being mooted of my going to Nottingham) that it was far from my wish to speak harshly of any one nearly connected with her - but from the experience I had had - I had little faith in anything her Father would do. This young lady though only about seventeen was a woman in understanding & far beyond her years in personal appearance. I told her that I entertained no personal illfeeling towards her Father - but on my sisters pressing me to address a letter to him at Nottingham which I declined

28 declined - I said that though quite faithless of any good result - I was quite open to anything he could do to promote my interests & I expressed to each sister privately that it behoved me to hold myself ~~as~~ ~~far~~ so far open to receive his assistance if it were only to afford an opportunity of proving to them the utter fallacy of expecting any aid from such a person. The conversation I had with Miss Mower combined with what might pass between her & other members of my family induced her to write to her Father in such a way as disposed him I suppose to overlook what had passed - and in a letter from his intended wife ~~from~~ ^{to} her intended daughter in law brought an invitation for me to drive Miss Mower over to Nottingham - she having a poney & gig on our premises to go about collecting money on her Father's professional account in the neighbourhood. The day named for our going was the following Friday - the day of the invitation was Tuesday - at my suggestion I believe.

Miss Mower in reply proposed going on the next Monday - In the mean time I had the pleasure of driving Miss Mower about the neighbourhood on the business in which she was engaged. Before Monday arrived Miss Mower had a letter from her Father requesting her to remain at Plym until her business was completed, and on the Wednesday Mower came over with my Father from Worksop market. On Thursday Miss Mower & Eliza being out in the gig - after dinner

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dinner at the solicitation of my Sister I was induced to go into the parlour & shook hands with both Mower & my Father & sat down say a quarter of an hour - little conversation passed as my Father wanted to sleep after supper on Wednesday night Miss Mower & Eliza paid me a visit and as customary heard some animated conversation. On Friday forenoon Miss Mower & Eliza started with the poney & gig for Sheffield with the intention of returning on Monday. On Saturday Mower went with my Father to Retford - smoking his Meersham pipe through the Villiage in my Fathers gig. On Sunday forenoon Mr Ward came for Mower to go with him to Stone on some professional introductions - and after some delay got him to move. We bade each other good morning through the window & he afterwards came into my room to light his Meersham - they then drove off together. I must now go back to the Saturday but one previous. I promised to call to settle about the lodgings in the Villiage on that day. Upon deliberation it was thought better not to take them but to wait for those at Harworth. I however of course call'd as promised they were prepared to accommodate me - but my explanation made all agreeable - they not being anxious about having a lodger. John Hopkins the mans name was a sailor by trade - easily off in the world now formerly he lived in a cottage nearly opposite to our house. I expressed my regret that he had not been employed

employed by our family for many years past - as I was the innocent cause of this - when quite a youth on a visit home he made me at my request a top coat double breasted. My Father took so much umbrage at this that the man was never employed afterwards and it was with much difficulty that my dear Mother had me allowed to take it to Searbro'. I may hear just remark that my Father now wears a double breasted wrapper to attend markets. In the course of the following week Miss Mower having occasion to pass through Harworth we call'd upon Mrs Barber known to Miss Mower while a child. I informed her that it was still rather uncertain about my occupying her rooms - but would let her know when settled. I forget whether the invitation for my going to Nottingham had at this time arrived.

To take up my journal from Sunday - Mower & Mr Ward gone to Stone.

On Monday morning Mower's bed room being immediately above mine - he look'd out at the window mine being also open & said I say Joe - lets have a look at you - I replied I am shaving Sir - again - are you going to have a walk? Yes Sir - Not wishing to be seen out in his company when dressed I concluded to go direct to the Post Office. On passing through the front garden gate Mower who was sitting smoking at his room window said - You are off before me. I replied I am going to the

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the post office Sir. Then shall you come direct
back. I said Yes Sir - if there are any letters. I
found at the Post Office a letter for Mower from
Nottingham - which I took to him in the parlour
I then went into my own room & put on my light
coat & cap - it being very warm & on passing through
the parlour - Mower being there alone - said I am
going into the back garden at your service Sir if
you like to join me there - he replied I'll come
to you directly. I went and seated myself in the
arbour - lit my pipe & presently Mower came &
smoked too. After a little general conversation - he
said - Joe I'm going to take the cottage (the house
adjoining the farm yard) and I'll have a bow win-
dow put into the parlour and one too to the room
above - I made no observation that I recollect -
he continued in the same bombastic strain - in
allusion to some increased building accommodation
going on in the farm yard - He & Mr Woolley and
Mr Walker (the landlord) are building some sheds there
and we are going to put a chamber above &c. I manifested
no displeasure at this mode of talking - and soon after we
went into the orchard where my Father joined us and
after they had talked a little while I quietly retired.
Nothing of moment transpired in the course of the day.
Mr Ward call'd and as usual spent most of his time with
me. Mower was in my room more than once but had
not

2:30

is not much conversation. Miss Mower & Eliza did not arrive from Sheffield as expected. On the following morning I had a letter from Eliza enveloped and directed by Miss Mower informing us that we might expect my Sister by that days afternoon coach - but that Miss Mower would stay a day or two longer - the letter I gave my Sister Mary for the benefit of the parlour people. In the afternoon I went up the Village to meet the coach and conducted my Sister home. While at the garden gate I saw Mower kiss my Sister Eliza in the little lobby to the front door way. I went into my room. Mower soon came in & addressed something to me to which I made no reply & he quickly retired. Mr Ward called soon after & while with me Eliza came in and I spoke to her of what I had seen in the presence of Ward. I told her I was sorry a Sister of mine had no more self respect. She said it was done quite innocently. But I was aware ^{what had been the} of the nature of her feelings towards Mower both in writing & from her own lips. On her retiring Mr Ward informed me that Mower had tried the same thing on with a young Sister of his while in the house together on taking to Mowers establishment. In the evening I went to a neighbours house Charles Hudsons - but there being two gentlemen with him Lord Galways steward & another - I had not an opportunity of saying more than that I wish'd he would use his influence to get Mower away as I had witnessed something that made

made ^{me} more uncomfortable than ever. I engaged to call again and did so. and both he and his wife had divined the nature of the circumstance I alluded to. When Mower was in the practice of coming to our house some years before Mrs Hudson had cautioned my Father about such a person being allowed to be intimate with the family. Charles Hudson is a Farmer Butcher and extensive sheep & cattle Broker & he and his wife were very intimate with my Father he scarcely ever missing a day without calling at their house. Mower being so much at our house was the cause of considerable uneasiness to them. Charles Hudson said it was quite absurd ^{to expect} any aid from such a person that the fact was the man had nothing ~~and~~ would live at our house as long as he could. but that Miss Mower would come into an income when of age secured to her through her much respected mother. I was very uncomfortable this night and prayed God to aid & guide me aright. Mower sat up very late in the parlour my brother with him reading to him some registries of births and deaths while Mower copied them. Mower held the Office of Registrar of the district & though he had abundance of time to attend to this trifling business during the day he must keep my brother up to near one o'clock in the morning. I kept my room door open to have an eye to what was going on & heard my brother once intimate his wish to retire. I made occasion to
 pass

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pass through the room twice but without speaking
& Mower said another half night would complete it.
I remained up until they retired near one o'clock.
In the morning I wrote the following note to Mower
and gave it to the maid at about half past seven
o'clock for him. I saw Eliza in the parlour take
the note out of her hand and returned it as she
saw me moving towards them & the girl took it
to him -

Sir,

I beg to inform you that a fur-
ther residence in this house will not be suffered -
but you must immediately find other accommodation

I remain

Sir,

Your most obedient
humble servant.

Joseph Woolley Jr.

To
Mr Mower

Wednesday Morning

I returned to my room supplicated the Deity to
aid and guide me aright - I then went out to see
that Eliza had not possibly gone to talk with Mower.
I had on a previous day heard them talking together
at the window above - not seeing her anywhere about
I went up stairs to Mower's door - I was in dishabille
loose white trousers & coat & slippers on - I heard
Mower say "he's crazy" & supposing some one to be
with him opened the door - he was alone and in bed
I said he's crazy is he - he's crazy is he - Yes says he I
think

think you are. I said you damnd scoundrel - and
 doubled my fists in a fighting attitude - I said if
 you are a man get up and defend yourself - ^{he got up if} Mower
 is a stout athletic man six feet one in his stockings I
 should say - he squared for a fight - and said if I
 get a blow at you I'll send you to ——— I
 don't recollect the last word & he aimed the first
 blow & I struck out in return - I think I hit him but
 am not certain of that we then withdrew from each
 other two yards and after a hideous smile had
 crossed his face we came too again & he caught it
 severely in his face - say six heavy blows and two on
 the body - back & breast which sent him into the
 passage and he tried to close the door upon me but
 without success. The man was quite done up & sufficient-
 ly punished I thought so I passed by & left him pultering
 in his blood. I escaped without a scratch except two
 on my right hand. I encountered my Father near
 the foot of the stairs - I was of course much agitated
 & out of breath with the great exertion made. I forget
 what he said to me - but I told him that if he
 could not take care of the family I would - that
 there was but one opinion of Mower in the neighbour-
 hood - that he was a libertine and a great scoundrel.
 He said that he could take care of the family
 I replied that he could not. I then retired to my
 room - thank'd God for the Victory - shared breakfast
 - smoked my pipe - then walked over to Hodsock
 to tell Mr Ward what had occurred. The account
 of Mower's disaster evidently pleased him. He pressed me

me to remain all day to meet his brother in law & a friend who were to arrive that evening. I declined doing so but would endeavour if nothing prevented to come over in the evening. On my return I called at Charles Hudsons but he was out - and on getting home I found Mr Russell's vehicle in the front - I went into the parlour where my Father & two Sisters were standing together. Russell had been making memorandums - but stopped & said I will send that down for Mr Mower. My Father immediately retired - Russell & myself exchanged a few polite words & I opened him the door as he was retiring and accompanied him to the garden gate when I returned into the house. I had in the forenoon casually called (without referring to the subject of the morning) upon an old maiden lady a friend - Mary Brandeth who gave me an invitation for my sisters to go and take tea with her that afternoon. I delivered this message to my Sisters - saying that if they could not go they were to send her information to that effect before three o'clock as I had so arranged with her. A little before one I went down to Hudsons they were sitting down to dinner & I took dinner with them. I had made these two persons acquainted with what had been passing - the correspondence between Mower as the organ of the family & myself they had seen. On telling ^{them} that Russell had been called in to attend Mower - Charles Hudson said - that had he brought a horse & a chain to drag him out of the house it would have been better. The afternoon turned out very wet. My Father attended Workop market - about 4th Russell came again - I met him at the door - took off his over

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over coat and hung it up for him. he said I must
try to make a peace between you and Mr Mower.
I smiled and said nothing - after staying with
Mower say twenty minutes he came down to me
& requested that I would go up & shake hands with
Mower & say I was sorry for what had occurred or
something of that nature. I declined after much
preping to do so - all I could say was that I was
sorry if he was seriously injured and that there
should have been a necessity for such a peace
that I considered him an unfit person to be resident
in our house - that I had had sufficient experience
of him to desire no more of his acquaintance. as for
the injuries he had received they were not the
consequences of an assault - but an accepted challenge.
I said I menaced him by my attitude - but he was
the first that struck out. Mr Russell returned but
came again & finding me immovable - Mower
came himself & held out his hand which I declined.
He said he should be sorry if I thought he enter-
tained any revengeful feelings. I said I should
be sorry if Mr Mower were seriously injured &
would be ready to shake hands with him when
he left the house - but not before - which I hoped
would take place as soon as Mr Russell thought him
fit to be removed. He said - and bear me no
malice or ill will - I replied & bear you no malice
or ill will. he said - that will do. Russell shook
hands with me and they retired together. I observed
that

that Mr Russell stand tea. - after tea I took a walk into the Village & mended my way towards Hodcock but finding the road so extremely dirty - I returned. About ten o'clock Miss Mower returned from Sheffield being driven over by her Uncle. Of course I had none of their company. Her Uncle slept in the room Mower occupied they are brothers - I could hear that they were awake to a late hour. The following day Thursday was Plymth fair. I went through the Village in the forenoon & met Mr Russell at the other end beyond the precincts of the stock collected for sale. He enquired after Mower. I said I was unacquainted with the state of his health. He then asked how his chest was. I replied that I did not know. I enquired when he thought he would be fit to be removed - he said anytime - I then said I wish you would give him notice to quit to day. About noon Mr Ward call'd with his brother in law & press'd me to come & spend the evening with them. I would not promise & though I had no notion of steps having been taken to put me under restraint. I happened to say that my time was very uncertain at my own disposal just now. After tea as standing at the window - I saw the person from the Retreat come to the front door - I thought it might be some one come to see Mower as I had no recollection of him. After a while he came into my room - told me who he was & his errand & that the certificate had been signed by two medical men. Mower & Russell I said that Mr Russell had had opportunity of exchanging with me but very few words & consequently could

could scarcely be considered a competent judge as to the state of my mind and that Mower was actuated by revengeful feelings & but that if he would go over with me to Mr Wards a Surgeon at Hodsock with whom I had had a good deal of intercourse & had resided with him nearly a week & he Mr Ward thought I was a fit subject to be placed under controul. I would then peacefully accompany him. This was not acceded to so I put on my shoes and hat changed my coat & was for proceeding to Hodsock alone unless he chose to accompany me. I succeeded in getting into the road - where I was captured and brought back. Here we held a parley I appealed to three of our labourers then in the room with whom I had worked & been continually open to their observation and they severally admitted that they had never seen anything wrong about me - and declared it to be a very hard case. But these men were aware they would be discharged if they did not obey my Father's orders. Ultimately Mr Russell was brought and we had a long talk - he is a man of considerable ability & has been the family doctor to us all. All that I could get from him as a ground for forming the opinion that I should be placed under restraint was that on passing me on several occasions he had observed something about the expression of my eye which induced him to think that all was not right with me. The fact was that there was a slight misunderstanding between us arising out of trifling circumstances.

circumstances or perhaps a mistake which led to our passing without recognition & this circumstance combined with a probable knowledge of my having been in this institution before it is likely biased his judgment. I would lay great stress upon the knowledge of the fact of my having been here before - as tending to induce any observer who saw the least eccentricity which might have been satisfactorily explained - to infer that the party so unfortunately circumstanced was rather crazy. —

I was brought to the Retreat - and I instructed the young man a labourer of ours - who came with me - to request to be forwarded to me my pocket book - containing the correspondence - copies of which are to be found among these papers. This was not sent - but the excursion to Plym which I have since taken has placed me in possession of them. I have reason for thinking - that my being forcibly brought here has occasioned some sensation in the locality of my native place - where I flatter myself I have not lived a twelve month ~~in any~~ ~~remote place~~ without acquiring the respect & affection of some - and that not the least amongst the working classes.

York Retreat
28th May 1847

Joseph Woolley Junr.

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