

Papers relating to Caleb Abell

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

N^o 1.

Reheat July 11th 1853. Monday.

On Thursday June 30th last I called at the establishment of Evers & Co. Coney Street to say that my name in a business transaction had been misspelt, & I left my name & address properly spelled with a request that it might be handed to the Lord Mayor of York, who is head of the firm with my compliments & a challenge to a game of Chess; as I had played with the late D^r Wake president of the York Chess club & with the late W^r Sherriff Hornor family, who was acquainted with my family in Ireland. In a few days I received a courteous message that the Lord Mayor was not a chess player but would be glad to show me over the mansion house & let me see the pictures. I called several times both at the mansion house & business establishment & also sent a note & left several messages, to none of which I received any answer, at last I told a person in the counting house (Merchant Tailors) to whom I had frequently spoken I thought I was uncourtously used, in not receiving any answer to my note or messages, he urged me to call again, I replied I would not unless I was distinctly sent word when I could see the Lord Mayor. I heard no more on the subject; now I have no doubt that

the Lord Mayor was influenced by the Superintendent
or committee of the retreat, in the conduct he pursued
towards ^{me}, else why should he avoid me or not take any no-
tice of my communications after having sent me a spa-
ntaneous invitation to call at the mansion house.
Had the invitation been to John Bragg or W. Tracy
the two patients mentioned in the other paper & 2
no impediment would have been thrown in their way.
The conduct of the Superintendent, John Hitching
a legally qualified medical man bears untroubled
falsehood on the face of it towards me, he told me
twice since he became superintendent that he had
no objection whatever to my walking out by myself
reading at the York library &c. but that the commit-
tee would not agree to it, & yet when I went to my
unsuccessful invitation to the Mansion House he
gave more stringent directions to my attendants
with respect to me than had been given since I
came to the retreat before & as this depends entirely
on himself it betrays his previous assertion.

And two of the chief persons concerned in the go-
vernment of the retreat Samuel Luke treasur-
er & ex. off. Committee men in perpetuo, & Caleb
Williams 2nd medical officer have lied towards

me both in word & in deed, I told them both so & they
did not deny it, but I got no redress these are both
ministers or preachers in as they call themselves the
"peaceful Society of Friends," but from all the
experience that I have had for many years even
from my infancy to the present time they should
be called the Vindictive Society of Quakers, as they con-
tinually wage an interminable offensive war
against all persons who differ from their narrow
minded views & practical peculiarities.

What I have stated of the falsehood of the two York
Quaker preachers Samuel Tuke & Caleb Williams
I will prove if necessary before any properly authorised
person or court in existence.

The Superintendents Committee & some of the under
officers have acted unjustly & ungenerously towards
me ^{ever} since I came to the house but these matters shall
be again referred to at a future period.

I enclose a paper which I intended to give the Lord
Mayor of York had I met with a courteous reception
it will disclose something of the present state of affairs
at the York Quakers' retreat.

I will superscribe these two papers which no person has
sent to Dr. Belcombe & who may read them to the other
Medical officers & any member or members of the Detach-

Committee, & it will then be his duty to forward them to Her Majesty's Executive government for their information how affairs are conducted at the "Friends Meeting, York," for which I shall be obliged altho' it is in the line of his duty as senior Medical officer of the Meeting. (Dr. DeCrombe should not let those papers out of his possession. ^{until sent to London}) Caleb A. Bell.

Circumstances as I have been for years past I have had much time for gaining such scientific information as my opportunities afforded & contemplating on what I have read & observed I have collected but not preserved 500 indigenous plants about York & made acquaintance with others in the gardens & shrubberies & with their mode of fructification &c. I am ready to write a paper in which I will prove both mathematically! as well as chemically & analytically that the celebrated Dr. Lindley the whole of the English French & German botanical schools of botany are entirely wrong on their fundamental principles of botanical physiology & also that Schleiden the microscopical botanist is certainly wrong in one of his conclusions: on reproduction generally in the animal creation. I have also seen how (that is by conclusions drawn from my own reflections) the newly discovered ~~discovered~~ planets, comets &c. are formed, which others so absurdly suppose to be fragments of a disintegrated world, & which I am surprised to find that the noted American astronomer Mitchell thinks the only way they can be produced. I see, our Earth may fly to pieces in a twinkling: but there is no danger. Such views are a libel on the Deity! &c.

N^o 2.

Memorandum. Retreat July 5th 1853.

Some time ago I asked the Superintendent who is a legally educated medical man if I might, now that all the causes of my being placed at the retreat were removed, walk out by myself become a member or having the liberty of reading in the York Library, of botanizing &c. He told me he had no objection whatever but when it was mentioned to the committee they would not agree to it. - Now there are two persons ^{patients} in the house whose names I can give who go in & out at all hours when they please, one has just passed me in front of the house, & these have neither asked permission nor are ever prevented. The law is when the medical officer returns the name of any patient to the Committee as being suitable to go out unattended that he ^{is} permitted to do so. This I know from experience to be the case at the Friends Retreat Dublin, it is the case at the County Asylum York, two of the patients from which establishment lately

entirely unattended drank tea at the retreat.
If the Lord Mayor of York would commu-
nicate with Dr. Belcombe the senior Medi-
cal officer of the Retreat, & who well knows
the law as he is a lecturer on Medical Juris-
prudence, I attended one of his opening lec-
tures & was much gratified & informed by
doing so, where I met the late Dr. Wake who
invited me to dine with him next Sat. week
I did & beat him, or won 2 out of 3 games of chess
from him; I have it arranged that I might as
I am now legally entitled on the report of the
Medical Superintendent, be privileged to walk
out to botanize & read at the library &c. I would
hold myself under a great obligation to
the Lord Mayor of York.
Caleb Bell.

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I again lately asked the Medical Superintendent to
go out by myself, he reiterated he had no objection but the
Committee would not agree to it. This is quite illegal. C.B.
Lx 47

To D^r Belcombe.

Senior Medical Officer.

Retreat.

York.



