

**Printed advertisement for the post of Superintendent at the Retreat
and three letters from Thomas Allis, Tewkesbury, to Samuel Tuke, about
his application for post of Superintendent**

Publication/Creation

1822 - 1823

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/vz8zge2t>

License and attribution

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

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

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



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

Yonk, 7th Month 25th, 1822.

Esteemed Friend,

I am desired by the Committee of the Retreat, to transmit to each of the Agents, a copy of the present year's report, and of the Advertisement which follows it, for a suitable friend to fill the Office of Superintendent.

The importance of this situation, induces us to request the favor of thy assistance, in giving such publicity to the want of the Institution, as may make it most generally known to the members of our Society in thy district. The Committee also requests that thou wouldst communicate freely the qualifications of any person who may apply for the situation.

It may be proper to state that it is not requisite for the Superintendent to be married; and a middle aged person would be preferred to a young man, or to one considerably advanced in life. It is desirable that the Superintendent should be in the habit of self-government; and he should also possess good general knowledge and agreeable manners.

The Salary is not fixed, and it would depend so much on the qualifications of the individual who should be chosen to the situation, that no sum can properly be mentioned.

The Reports of the Retreat are sent as usual to thy care for distribution; and requesting the continuance of thy kind attention to the interests of the Establishment,

I remain,

Very respectfully,

Thy Friend,

SAMUEL TUKE.

AT
A General Meeting
OF
DIRECTORS AND SUBSCRIBERS
TO
THE RETREAT,

Held at York, the 27th. of 6th. Month, 1822.

The Committee, in conjunction with the Friends appointed to examine the accounts of the Institution, for the year ending the 31st. of 3rd. mo. 1822, have presented the following statement, from which it is satisfactory to find, that the income from the Patients approaches much nearer to the expenditure on their account, than it has done for several past years. There is still however an excess of expenditure above the Income, of £234. 15s. 5½d. which, with the claims of annuitants, £215. 5s. 6d. and the interest of money borrowed, £136. 5s. 10d. makes a total surplus of expenditure above the Income from the Patients, of £586. 6s. 9½. We have however gratefully to acknowledge, that the sums received in the forms of Donations and Annual Subscriptions, amount to £484. 12s. 6d. and the sums subscribed for annuities and bequeathed to the Institution during the last year, amount to £395. 7s. leaving, with the rent of the farm, a balance in favor of the Retreat of £343. 12s. 8½d.

This statement, and the consideration of the debt with which the Institution is encumbered, will, we hope, induce the continued exertions of the Agents and other friends of the establishment, in obtaining Subscriptions towards its support.

During the past year sixteen Patients have been admitted—thirteen have been discharged, of whom nine were recovered, and most of the rest in an improved state—four have died—two of whom were about 80 years of age.

There are now 67 Patients under care, viz. 28 men and 39 women, of whom 3 men and 7 women are at the Appendage.

The state of the Institution continues to be such as affords satisfaction, and we believe fully authorizes us to recommend it to the confidence and liberal support of the Society.



PATIENTS OF THE HIGHER CLASS,
OF EITHER SEX,

By the completion of THE LODGE, and the consequent arrangements in the main building, may now be very commodiously accommodated with distinct apartments and attendants: thus uniting the advantages of a PRIVATE ESTABLISHMENT, with the benefits of this Institution.



93

SUPERINTENDENT WANTED.

THE advanced age of the valued Superintendent of the RETREAT, making him willing to resign the arduous Office he has so long advantageously filled, when a suitable person can be found to succeed him, the Committee is directed by the General Meeting to give Notice, that there is wanted A RESPECTABLE FRIEND, to undertake the situation of Superintendent of that Institution.

The person at present in that office acts as the Apothecary ; and one qualified so to act, or at least to prepare the medicines under the direction of the Physician, would be preferred.—The Superintendent also keeps the accounts of the Institution, and has the general charge of the whole family.

Application may be made to SAMUEL TUKE,
Treasurer;
or to the respective Agents in the several
Quarterly Meetings.

SUPERINTENDENT WANTED.

The undersigned one of the most experienced
of the Harbours, and being desirous to resign the
office of Superintendent, he has to beg respectfully
when a suitable person can be found to succeed him.
The Committee is desired to hold a General Meeting
to elect a new Superintendent, and a Harbours-
master, to be in the place of the present Superintendent.

John Whiting

W. H. H. H.

W. H. H. H.

GENERAL POST OFFICE,

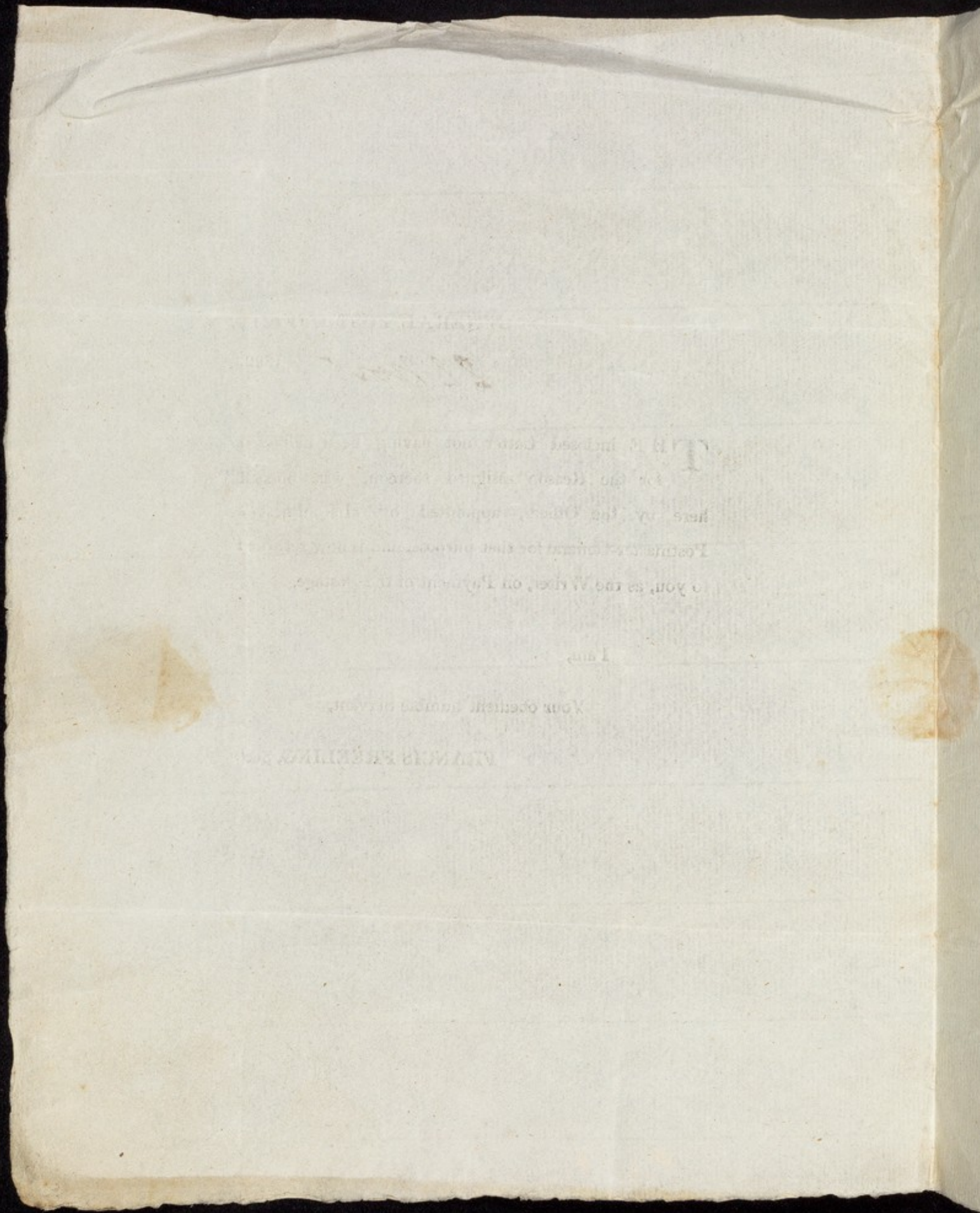
22 Nov 1822.

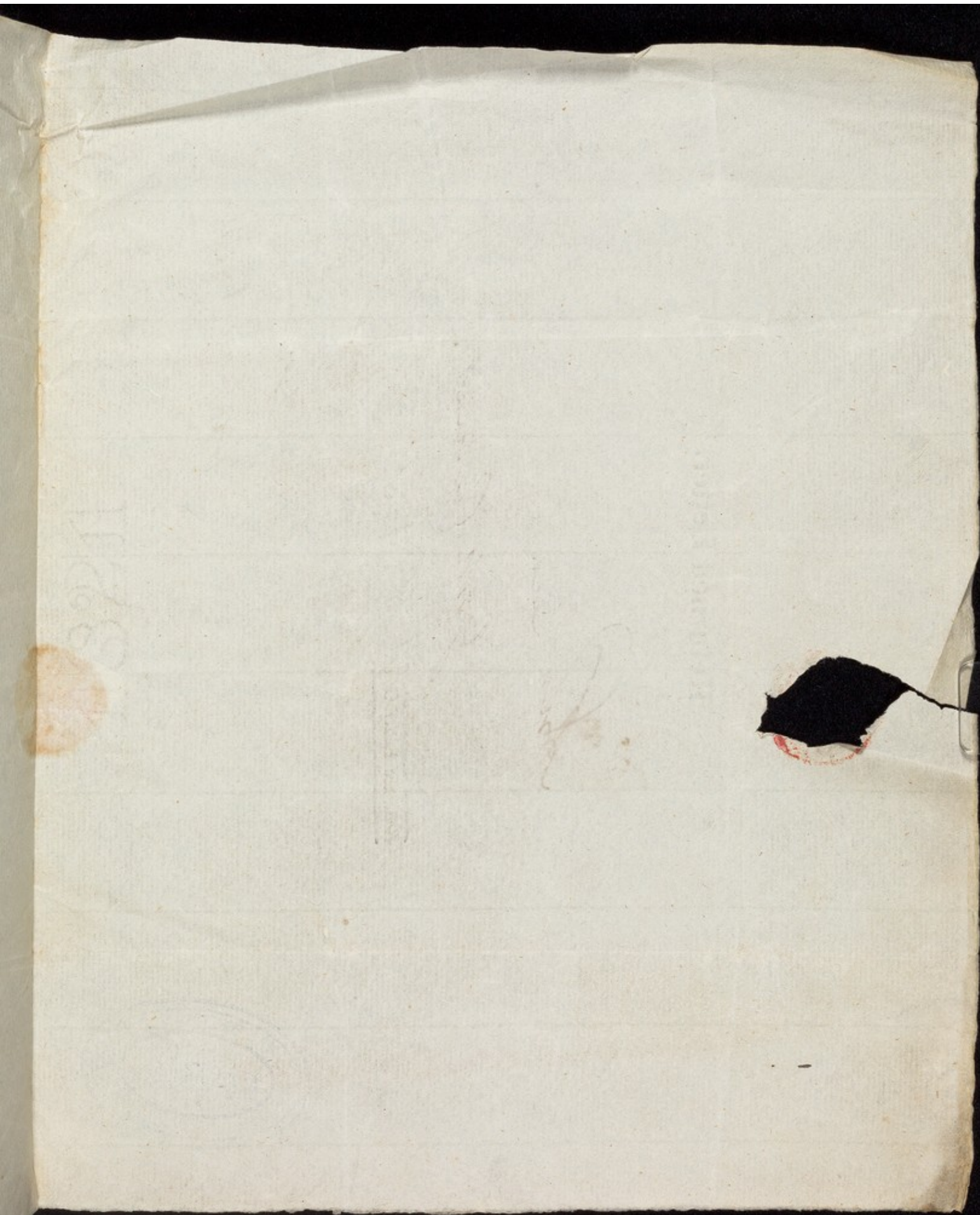
THE inclosed Letter not having been delivered for the Reason assigned thereon, was opened here by the Officer, appointed by His Majesty's Postmaster-General for that purpose, and is now returned to you, as the Writer, on Payment of the Postage.

I am,

Your obedient humble Servant,

FRANCIS FREELING, Sec^r.





Returned Letter.

Ann Lees.

York Retreat.

Returned Letter-Office.

Ann Lees

York Retreat



Esteemed Friend

Newbury 1 Nov 28

When I wrote thee before

I had no prospect of quitting my present residence & occupation until something eligible presented itself; & when I last wrote I had no intention of introducing the subject again myself. but as some of the Capital & employ is called in, & the present state of Agricultural affairs does not seem to warrant my replacing it by borrowing more; it therefore appears necessary for me now to be looking out more earnestly for some situation. & from that last paper relative to the situation at the Retreat; I do not feel inclined to make much enquiry in other quarters until I have decided that the door there is decidedly closed. — I am the more inclined to come to this determination in consequence of the thing having been approved by all my friends & when I have mentioned it; it was in fact & spontaneously named to me from three different quarters, before I first wrote about it; & in changing ones residence & occupation it is at least desirable to have the approbation of ones friends. — If the Society still seems to prevent our insuperable obstacle, do not hesitate candidly to inform me so; but if on the other hand no one more

eligible for the situation has yet offered & there
appears any probability that arrangements can
be made by which that obstacle can be removed
overcome, I would if it was desired take a journey
to York in order to facilitate it. A sister if
my Wife has ~~been~~ lived with us for some years.
if therefore the family could not be accommodated
on the premises, if a small house or Cottage
could be procured contiguous to or within a short
distance of the Retreat, we should not object to it.

I presume I need not inform thee that
my Sister Sarah is anxious for us to come
to York; in a letter we received from her
last week, she said you would fix nothing
till after your next quarterly Meeting. This
would have prevented my writing; only from the
necessity there is of my making inquiries
in Her quarters, provided Day does not
seem to her at York. I feel no wish
to induce you to come to a premature or
hasty decision; but if there is no probabi-
lity of your being eligible, I think by this
time you may be able to say so, & I should
then feel quite at liberty.

Very affec^t friend

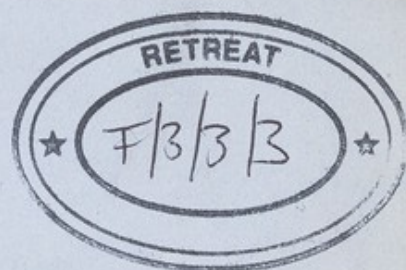
Thos. Allis

Saml. Tucker

of the
into the
journal
of
your
advice
that
short
to it
that
come
in
L
his
like
ies
not
L
on
Robin
his
and

So

9
Thos. Callis.
1st Mo. 1823



Esteemed Friend

Newbury 9th May 1822

In consequence of the advertisement for a Superintendent of the Retreat; several of my friends who have expressed to me their belief that I should be suitable for the Office, have directed me to make application for the situation. As the Autumn Quarterly Meetings are now as I apprehend nearly over; I apprehend that such applications as are likely to result from that advertisement have by this time been already made or will very shortly be so; so that I apprehend you will soon know whether any one in all respects suitable is likely to be obtained; if not I would query whether the services of an individual would be accepted, about 35 years of age; having no medical knowledge, whose nearest approximation to such knowledge, is only a superficial acquaintance with Chemistry as a Science; possessing as he does just common sense abilities; with general knowledge, powers of perception & habits of observation & attention & perseverance about on a par with the generality of persons occupying the middle rank in our Society in such rank

most of his friends are to be joined to
himself has moved; & I teller a Wife
& small family of young children would
be an insuperable objection to such
a person's obtaining the situation.

I should be glad to know somewhere
about the salary that would be given;
without knowing that I do not see how
I could form an opinion as to whether
it would answer my purpose to offer
my services; I noticed what was said in
your circular on that head, but I should
think myself that you need not feel
much difficulty in stating what would
be the lowest salary at which you would
engage a friend; because I think the
importance of the situation such, that
abilities & attention which would be worth
below a certain sum, would to the
Institution be worse than useless.

With respect to preparing the medicines,
though I have had no experience of that
kind, yet from the History of the Plants
I should gather that its Materia Medica
was a very simple one; & I should think
that with attention a knowledge of it
together with correctness & exactness in
preparing the medicines might soon be
attained. In thinking of the situation
it will not I presume be expected, that I should

have felt any natural predilection for
it; such a predilection I should conceive to be
impossible; though I think it very possible for
a person entering on his duty to become so interested in the welfare of the Anti-
tation & of the unhappy objects of his care
as to become really fond of the employ.

Although in consequence of the recom-
mendation of my friends, I make these
enquiries, I wish to leave it distinctly
understood that I feel not the least anxiety
respecting the situation, or wish to obtain
it, & the exclusion of any person possessing
superior qualifications. But if no such
person should have offered, there should appear
a probability that my services would be ac-
ceptable & sufficient encouragement was
held out; I think I should be disposed to offer
them. My Relative John Sanderson
of York, I apprehend knows enough of my
self & connections to make him suitable
for a preliminary reference; had anything
further come of the application, references
to persons I do leave I had better appointing
if knowing me would of course be effected
& given. An early reply containing
the free continuance would oblige

My friend
H. A. Ellis

Yours truly
Saml. Luke.

Thos Ellis

9th
mo. - 1822

Cottemed Friend

Newbury 10th Mo 1822

arrived duly

Thine of the 12th Inst
is before me; I wrote to thee and before stated
in consequence of the wishes of several
of my friends, did it not seem for their
wishes I think I should not have thought
of the situation for myself or have
taken any step & later on in the business
because I should have doubted my capabili-
ty of giving satisfaction to the Committee
but it is I feel quite satisfied with having
made the enquiry & satisfied also with
the result. I most readily concede that
from this intercourse with the Retreat, thou
must be better qualified than myself
to form an opinion on the subject. Yet
I do not altogether see the force of thy
objection to bringing up a young family
there; of course I could not know that also
moderation there might be for a family
but I conclude that the childrens intercourse
with the Patients would only be a very res-
tricted & partial one; I am aware of the
tendency to Imitation in children but I
presume that does not mean that this
tendency would be likely to become
contagion & produce insanity in the
Children; if not, I should not myself
have more objection to their imitating
some of the vagaries of the Insane, than
the follies of many of those boasting & puffing
preacher, with whom they are once familiarly

almost daily brought into contact & I think
that the same ~~care~~ attention ~~which~~ would be
necessary to counteract the effects in one case
would not fail to be applied to the other.

Her agent "the darling young children"
seems at present, an insurmountable objection,
which seems to imply that if no one suitable
could offer, it might at a later period pos-
sibly not prove an insurmountable one.
If I could not be otherwise engaged, I
feel disposed to leave the door open, though
I by no means wish you to consider me
as now seeing ~~for~~ the situation, but I
would just add that ^{the greater} accommodations for the
family would not be much ~~required~~ ^{required}.

At no period should I have felt easy
to accept the situation, unless I could believe
that no one more suitable could be found.
In many situations one might reasonably
properly wish to obtain & make use of any
interest we might serve for that purpose,
but I do not consider the Superintendent
ship of the Retreat to be one of those. I think
it involves so much responsibility & of
the well being of so many individuals that no
one should feel any other wish respecting it
than that it should be filled in the best
attainable manner. I entertain not
the least doubt but that the Committee in
their decision have been governed by
his feelings, & as I have stated I feel quite
satisfied therewith. I feel both gratified
& obliged by the kind interest that has been
expressed on my behalf; it is so long since

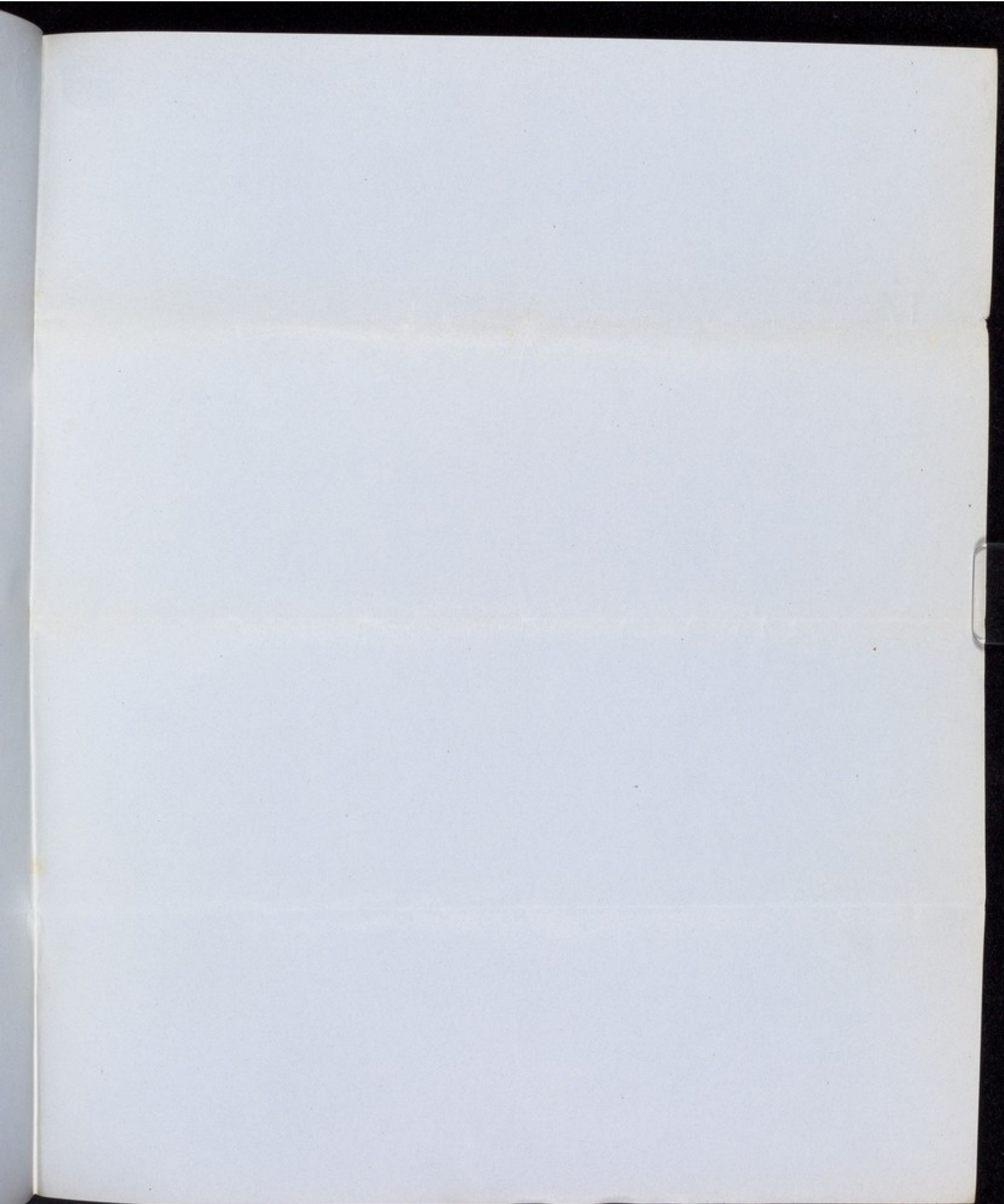
we were school fellows, & that for so short a period that I confess I did not expect any particular interest to be felt on that account but the kindness feels more the less acceptable from being unlooked for. — In reference to that more exact respecting Ackworth, I think myself it would be almost impossible for you to meet with any one person qualified to give Scientific & Practical instruction in "Agriculture & the various mechanical arts" to say nothing at all of Moral qualification; I don't perhaps you might meet with a person possessing sufficient General knowledge, to assist & direct the Lads in acquiring for themselves this knowledge to a certain extent, in the direction in which their different tastes might lead them. I must entirely coincide with thee in opinion "that there is great want in Ackworth school of a Moral Superintendent to have the charge of the Boys out of School, & to become a sort of domestic companion to them", a person to whom they should look up as a Father & a Friend, to whom they should apply for the solution of all their difficulties & whose peculiar province should be to endeavor to draw forth the latent energies of their minds, to develop & call into exercise their thinking faculties & give a right & just direction to their thoughts. — In a large Institution order & regularity are indispensable

ably requisite, both in the school & domestic
Departments, without them all would be con-
fusion; but the evil arising necessarily from
this order, is that the children become mere
Automatons, they do every thing by rule & from
habit & nothing from thought; & though on leaving
school the evil may not permanently affect
the character of Sads of superior minds; I have
no doubt myself but it is a great injury to all,
& I do not myself see how it can be prevented
from so operating; except by an appointment
of the nature then alluded to; at the same time
I think then will agree with me, that it is very
propable for a person to be sensible of an
evil & see a remedy, without being able him-
self to put it in practice; so I think it would
be with myself; I think I should not be equal
to the task; it would besides seem so much like
entering on a situation made for me; that I think
the responsibility this feeling would involve, ^{that}
would be so heavy, that it would counteract instead of
stimulate my exertions; but though I thus
feel as regards myself, yet I consider the
subject of so much consequence that I feel
disposed to encourage the promoting it, leaving
myself out of the question; believing much
fully that if such an appointment were made
rightly filled, it would greatly promote the
welfare of our Society. And I have my pen
in hand & take care to be one of the Committee
I will just advert to one other subject con-
nected with Catechisms; of late years much
has been said on the subject of religious
instruction in our public schools; I don't

pretend to know, because I have had no
opportunity of seeing, & that provision is
made on that head at Leekworth. but if we
look back to past years & consult our own
experience, I think we shall find that it is not
so much through the medium of catecheti-
cal instruction, or public reading that we
have ourselves received religious impressions,
as in those occasions when we could read privately,
when unobserved we could stop at those passages
which may ^{have} particularly impressed us & give
way to the feelings produced by these impressions.
If out of school some room is or
could be appropriated for a reading room,
which might be considered a sort of sanctuary
& which none but those inclined to read
& to do some good, & under the care of a
monitor to see that good order was
preserved, & the refusal of friends sitting
down for similar, tending to our own
I am inclined to think that the good results
therefrom, could not to say the least, be less
than that derived from either of the sources
alluded to. I am probably will not expect
so long a letter from me, but the kindness
which dictated my reply to my former letter
has produced a freedom of feeling & expression
which perhaps many at first might think needs some
excuse; if so I shall then with kindly excuse
it. - With this I subscribe myself
Very obliged from

Saml Duke

Saml Allis



2

Thas cA/155

10th mo 1822