

Austin, Polly

Publication/Creation

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Jan. 11, 1909

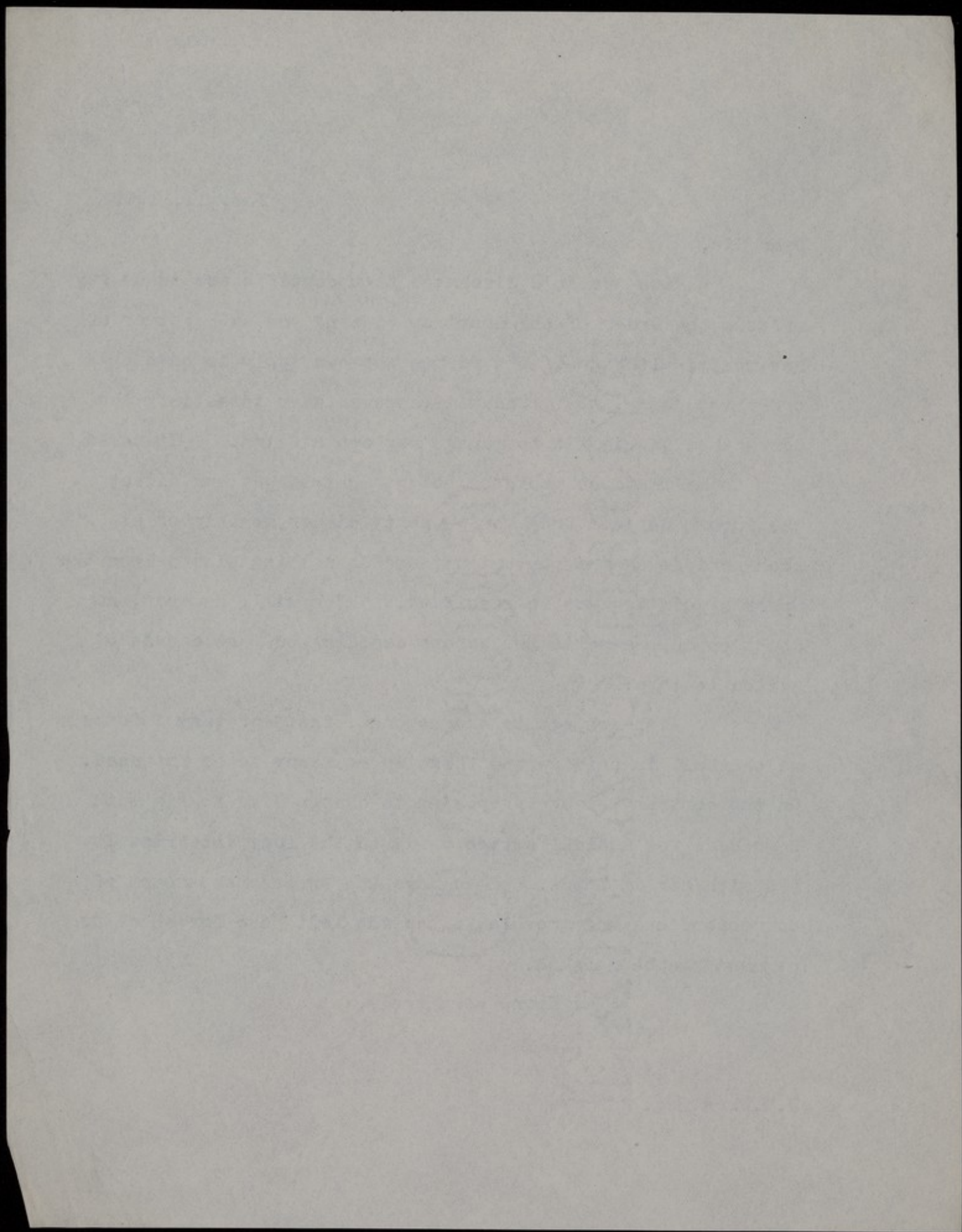
Dear Sir,

Miss Austin's discharge from certificates in no way affects the Order of the Court appointing you as Receiver of her money, although if she wishes she can apply to have this order set aside. She will, however, have to satisfy the Court that she is fit to manage her own affairs. It would seem to me that you would be doing right to pay her direct the income derived from her property either monthly or at such periods as are convenient, and do nothing else unless the Order appointing you be rescinded. You will, however, no doubt consult a solicitor before deciding on what course of action to take.

With respect to the account, the Secretary informs me that all is paid up and there is no money to be returned. On the contrary we are proposing to charge Miss Austin with 2 guineas for medical advice owing to the long interview I had with her in Leeds. We have had an immense amount of correspondence and trouble since she left here for which no payment has been asked.

Yours very truly,

J.W.Ward Esq.



Jan. 11, 1909

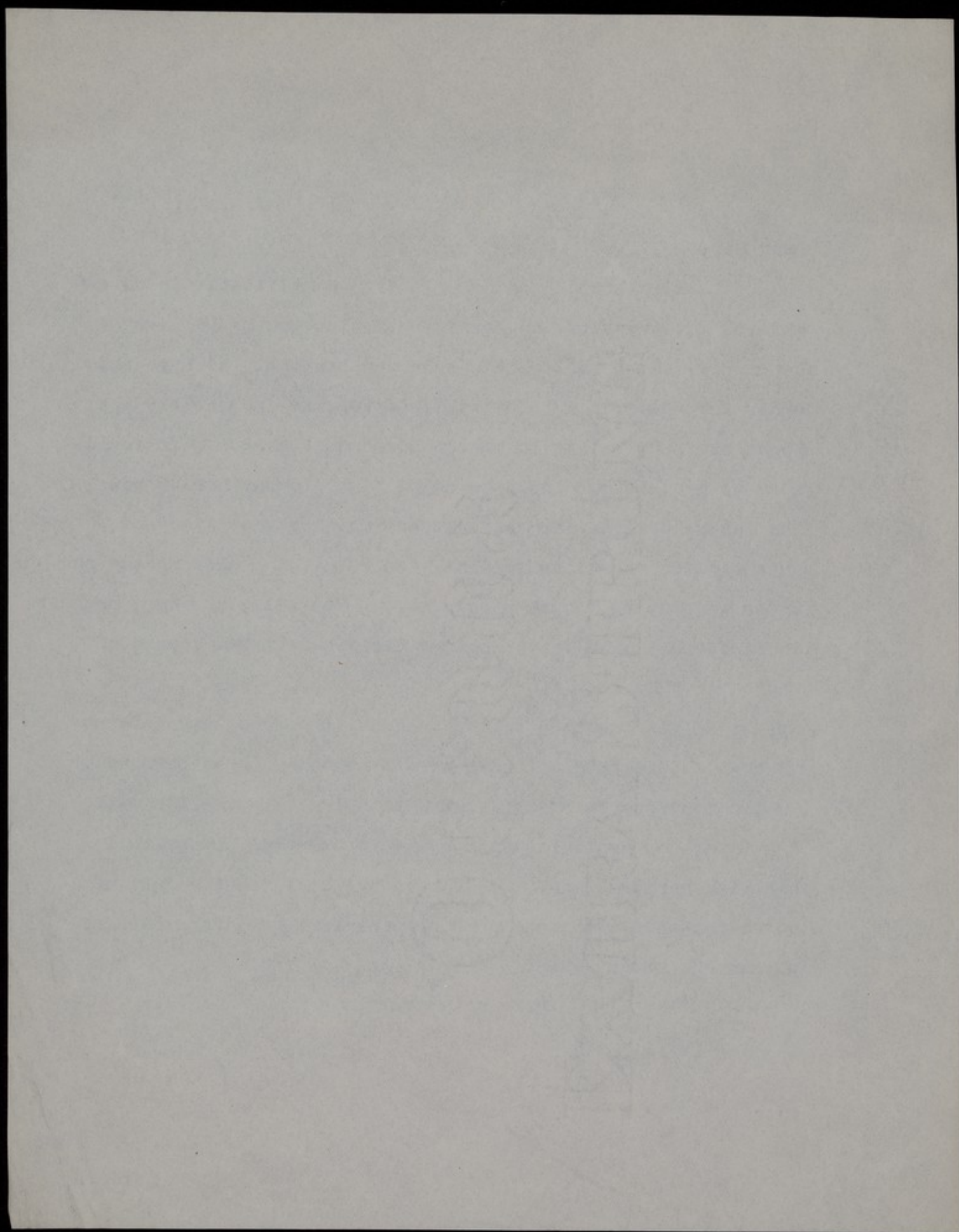
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Yours very truly,

J.W.Ward Esq.



P. Austin

1908
Nov. 27

P.A. to Dr Peice

Dr Watson " "

29

P.A. " "

Dec. 2

Dr Peice " Mrs. Mardon

" " Howard

3 Howard " Dr. Peice

8 Mrs. Mardon " "

10 Dr Peice " Mrs. Mardon

" " Rev. Guy (D.S.)

11 Dr Watson " Dr Peice

Rev. D. S. Guy " "

THE RETREAT,
YORK

Sept. 8, 1908

Dear Madam,

I am requested by the Medical
Superintendent to thank you for your
application for the position of
Assistant Matron.

An appointment having now been
made I return your testimonials.

Yours truly,

W.E.Waller

Secretary

have waited in expectation of having
back my name from a list of those
I have known better than my true
self, which under these right circum-
stances is being revealed to me as I
ought to have been long ago with-
out the many ties imposed around
me but which I trust will fall away -
as I seek only that I have been held
back from a quick orderly way of life.
It seems to me my case is one for the
King as well as the Commissioners to
inquire into and acknowledge as I
understand & have had to take affairs
of State and National interest it is
being done and that I may obtain some
compensation for being so long neglected
and obliged to see so much of a false
way of understanding.

Trusting I may soon receive a favorable
reply and thus be at liberty from
Anarchy Law. Yours faithfully
Polly Austin.

THE VICARAGE,
HIGH HARBORATE

Nov 27th 1908

Dear T. Pierce,

May I trouble you
to tell me precisely what the
Commissioners in Lunacy and
you have decided to do further
in my case. A fortnight ago
I sought T. Bertram Watson
to inquire as to who I owed
authority to if any body and
my affections were becoming
more composed than I required
or desired in the way they were

held. My patience in such
affairs has had a long schooling
and I have at length found
there is a limitation to patience
such as I have been forced to
cultivate. Dr. Watson told me
I was free that day - in a
constrained manner he further
informed me that I had been free
for nearly a fortnight as he
understood from you by telephone
I quite believe that my case so
long neglected has grown into very
trying proportions and complications
with many relationships that there
must elapse a certain length of
time to put in order the facts of
my case if such can be done so I

(958)

Mount Laurel,
104, Walker Road,
Harrogate.

Saturday CW 27

Dear Mr. Piers,

I am afraid I have no
information of a direct character to put you
concerning Miss Austin: but Mrs. Gay gives
a most favourable report, as having no
difficulties, and things are running perfectly
smoothly. Miss Austin behaves as an
excellent member of the family.

Thank you very much for your enquiry
about my father. Notably he appears
to me to be markedly improved, but I

am afraid that physically he is rather
weak.

With kind regards,

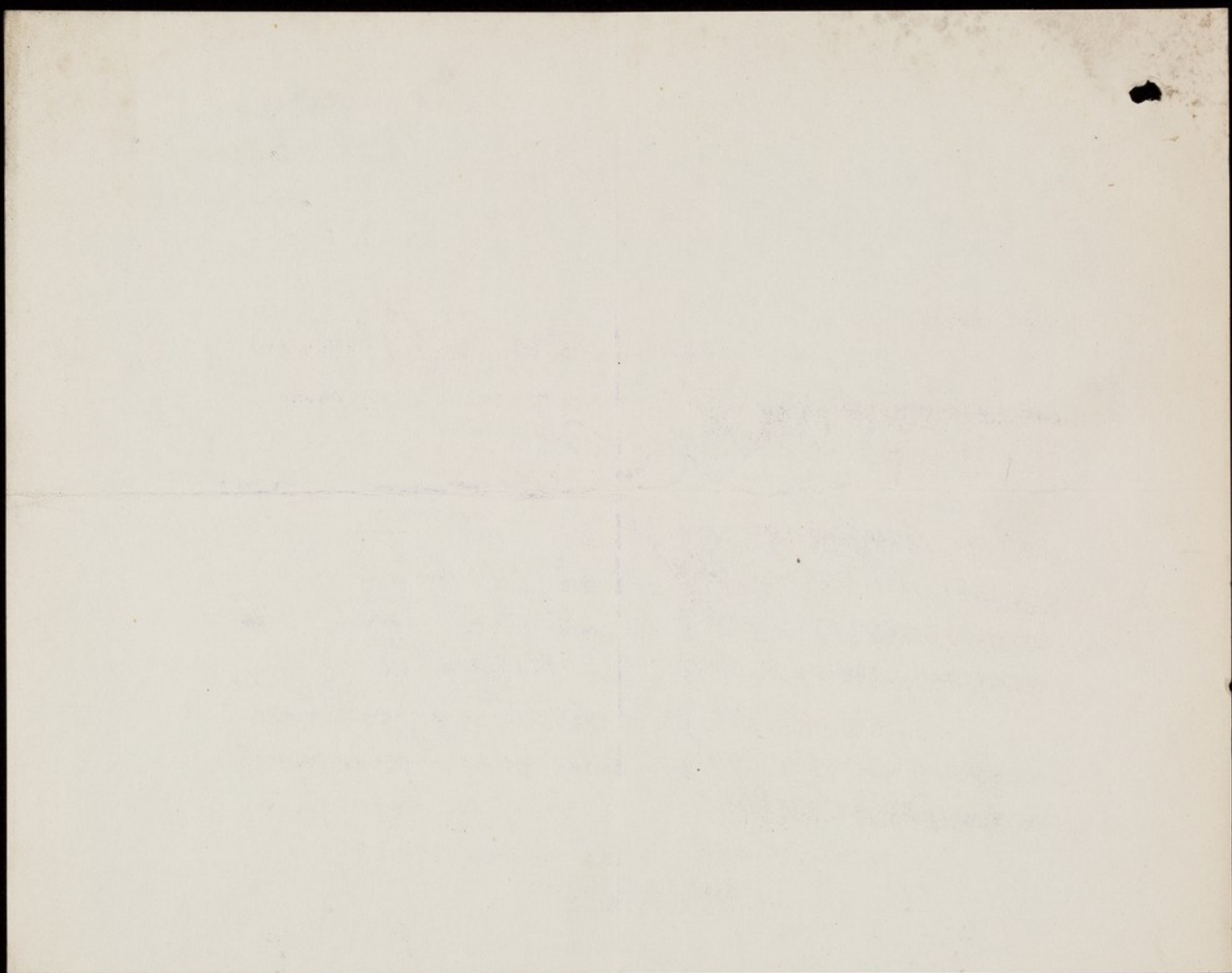
Sincerely yours,

Bertram Baker

The Vicarage
High Harrogate
Nov. 29. 1908

(954)

Dear Mr. Pierce, Thank you for
your letter of last night, I am
sorry to have mis understood
Mr. Mertram Watson and that
I did not make my inquiry
before. I will come on Tuesday
afternoon at the time appointed -
with my cousin Mr. Mellison -
to your room in Park Square.
As you think such a visit is
necessary. Yours faithfully
Pollie Austin



Dec. 2, 1908

Dear Madam,

I had a long interview with Miss Austin yesterday and have also heard from Dr. Bertram Watson who has been attending her, and have seen Mrs. Mallison.

I am pleased to be able to say that Miss Austin has got on exceedingly well at Harrogate. She has given no trouble, and it is therefore not necessary that her name should remain any longer on the books of the Retreat. We therefore propose to discharge her as "relieved".

I may perhaps explain that she is not completely recovered, but she has in my opinion sufficiently recovered to justify her discharge.

I am also writing to Mr. Ward to this effect.

Yours very truly,

Mrs. Mardon



Dec. 2, 1908

Dear Mr. Ward,

I send you a copy of a letter I am sending today to Mrs. Mardon. I may supplement this by saying that it would seem to me undesirable that Miss Austin should have control of her money so far as capital is concerned. I understood that you were appointed by the Committee receiver of her property, and I would suggest that you continue to act in this capacity even if she is discharged from certificates. This of course is not a matter which comes within my province, but I explained fully to Miss Austin that I was satisfied it was best for her only to spend the dividends and to allow the estate to remain in your hands. I understood that she agreed to this.

Yours very truly,

The first part of the paper is devoted to a general discussion of the problem. It is shown that the problem is of great importance in the theory of the differential equations of the second order. The second part of the paper is devoted to the study of the properties of the solutions of the differential equations of the second order. It is shown that the solutions of the differential equations of the second order are of great importance in the theory of the differential equations of the second order. The third part of the paper is devoted to the study of the properties of the solutions of the differential equations of the second order. It is shown that the solutions of the differential equations of the second order are of great importance in the theory of the differential equations of the second order.

AUSTIN FRIARS.

DEWSBURY.

✓ 3rd Decr/08

Dear Sir,

I thank you for
your letter & am glad to
hear that you consider Miss
Austin is sufficiently recovered
so that I suppose she is free
to go where she likes & without
any restraint. I do not know
what course requires to be
adopted in order that her
discharge is officially

Sanctioned, but I expect
that as certain forms had to
be filled up when she was
first certificated, so it will
be necessary now for someone
to act in procuring her
discharge.

As you say, I was appointed
Receiver by the Master in Lunacy,
but I am very anxious to be
relieved & am hoping that
before long either Miss Austin
will be able to manage her
own affairs or someone else
will take the thankless office.

Again thanking you for all
your kindness & consideration.

I remain
Yours faithfully,
Dr. Pierce J. N. Ward

9175-
3, Richmond Park Road,
Clifton,

Bristol.

✓ Dec 8 -

Dear Sir

In reply to your
letter received last
week I write to say
that in face of recent
letters from my sister
it appears to me that
although her conduct
may be quieter her
mind is no better.

I deplore your intention
of discharging her, and
if you still maintain
your decision of not
keeping her on the Books
of the Retreat would
it not be better to transfer
her under certificates
either to the people with
whom she is now, if they
will have her or give
an opportunity for their

care to be found, if they will.
Yours truly
Annie Chardon

Dec. 10, 1908

Dear Madam,

I will submit your letter to the Retreat Committee who will consider the matter at their next meeting, and in the meantime I will communicate with Mr. Guy with whom Miss Austin is staying at Harrogate. I do not think the Committee are likely to agree to any further extension of the leave of absence; and your suggestion that Miss Austin should be transferred under certificates seems to me, in view of her general behaviour these past months, not necessary or desirable.

Yours very truly,

Mrs. Mardon

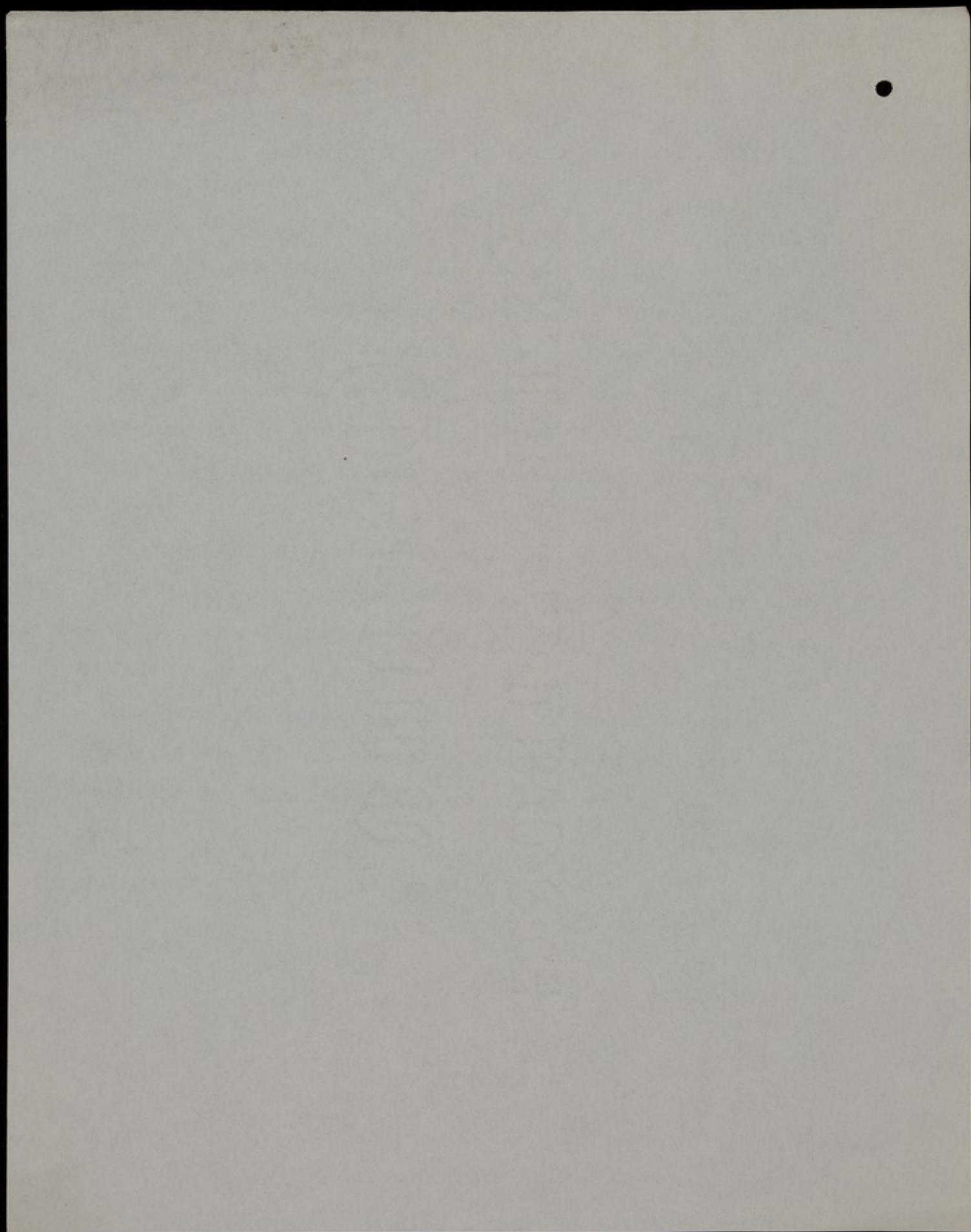


Dec. 10, 1908

Dear Sir,

The question of the discharge of Miss Austin from certificates will be considered by the Retreat Committee early next week, and now that she has stayed with you for a long time I shall be glad to know if you see any reason why she should remain legally under care. You are of course aware that if she is discharged from our books she will be at liberty to do what she pleases. I may add that my interview with Miss Austin the other day was quite satisfactory and that although she clearly has not recovered she appeared to possess sufficient self control to enable her to look after herself. I do not, however, want to report the matter to my Committee without hearing from you exactly how you think Miss Austin has been getting on and whether in your opinion there is any reason why the certificates should not be allowed to lapse.

Rev. - Guy



Mount Laurel,
104, Walker Road,
Harrogate.

Friday Dec 11

Dear Mr. Tene.

It is only on rare occasions
that I see Miss Austin. When under a
difference for me to form an opinion. When
she was there she certainly did refer to the
question of taking legal proceedings. But
I think Mr. & Mrs. Guy and myself were
dissuaded her from this course.
You will be glad to hear I have satisfaction
reports of my father. He is now under
the care of an old fellow student of mine.
who did not get quibbled. + is acting as
attendant. I am going away next

week to Italy for a holiday.

Ache me

Sincerely yours.

Bertam Wation

Dec. 11. 1908

THE VICARAGE,
MASHAM.

Dear Sir:

Miss Austin has now been several months with us, & we have had every opportunity of observing her, & are thoroughly of opinion that she is fit to be removed from your books. We feel a good deal indebted in her case, & have seen no signs that she need remain under care or supervision. She has conducted herself with great self control & calmness & consideration for others.

I am, yours faithfully,

Daylan S. Gray.

Vicar of High Hamworth

Bedford Pierce Esq

THE VILLAGE
OF ST. JOHN

much the same as when I began my
change of life! seven years ago. it is
now an actual reality but in past the
same dream and aspirations, as if
I had been held up that length of time
and now let go. My health I believe is
quite re-established but not. I think
I need a little change of air which my
quiet time in London will satisfy -
I have offered my self to the S.P.G. as a
worker in India where my heart has
long been. my teaching might be very
much but my love could be great in
service for my Empire and my King.
I have the fire of patriotism in fully
also and long to spend my self in
what I know is to be condemned.
I thank you for all your kindness, I wish
you would have done more for me if it had
been given you to do and I am grateful
for all the kind treatment I received. I can
only say again I wish it had come into my
life earlier but yet I am thankful for much.
You have left me in the hands of friends who love me

and whom I shall
very soon be sure with kind regards
yours faithfully
P. H. Austin

THE VICARAGE,
HIGH HARROGATE

1020

Dec 17: 1906

Dear T. Price

Thank you for
your kind letter of this morning
I guess that I cannot feel more
thankful for my legal escape
from what has held me so
long. Naturally I have lived above
my former life and so the
reality of that light were has
disappeared, but there is another
struggle before me and
that is facing my own living
which is not a delusion but

a verily but as you have said
you have nothing to do with my
money affairs - I feel a year
for late payment but perhaps I
shall get above that also and
take it as serenely as many
other trials from procrastination
and not on my part for I love
to be in time is not a little before.
I have dis-cussed your letters
with Mr. & Mrs. Guy. and they see
with me that to go on living above
one's income has no principal
whatever in it - especially when
the new start in life has to be begun
in debt after a tedious & leave
absence so to speak. They are

all that is kind in Christian love and
would like to have me for Christmas to
make merry. We have all however
decided that as I have had a decided
call to make a Retreat at St. James
Home Fulham S.E. where I started from
seven years ago it will be just as well
to answer and I am going to do Church
Embroidery for Mr. Guy's morning Chapel
while in meditation there for a fortnight
when I shall come back with fresh
ideas and more true spiritual insight
I trust. The best Christians I find
are at times in sore doubt & perplexity
It has been given to me to see so many
sides to a question that I can have
no fear for the future of being whirled
into mental aberration or delusion.
My feelings and experiences are

Jan. 21, 1909

Dear Bertram Watson,

I am very sorry for the difficulty respecting Miss Austin, and it is indeed most unfortunate that she did not take my advice and leave things quietly alone and not trouble with solicitors and raking up old grievances. I conclude that information has reached the Commissioners which leads them to think that she is not capable of managing herself or her affairs. This is corroborated by the fact that when discharged from the Retreat she was discharged as relieved as I could not consider her thoroughly recovered. It is as you know illegal for any one to receive a person of unsound mind for profit without the necessary certificates, and as from the Commissioners' point of view the presumption is that Miss Austin remains of unsound mind they are writing to Mr. Guy as they have done. It is open to Mr. Guy either to act on their suggestion or allow Miss Austin to leave, but I fear that if the matter is not properly explained to the Commissioners this trouble will recur wherever she may go. I would suggest that you write to the Commissioners telling them that you were of the opinion after prolonged acquaintance with Miss Austin that certificates were no longer necessary and that you believe the same view was taken by the authorities at the

Retreat. It is possible this may have the desired effect, especially if Mrs. Wallison also writes to the Commissioners saying that she is prepared to exercise the little control necessary which other relatives are apparently unwilling to do. It is a very difficult case, and it would not be at all a bad thing for Mrs. Wallison personally to call on the Commissioners and explain her view of the matter.

I am extremely glad to hear that Mr. Watson has recovered: it is very satisfactory indeed. I hope your mother also is much better than she was.

I may be at the Medical Society in Leeds tomorrow evening. Perhaps you will be there.

Yours very truly,

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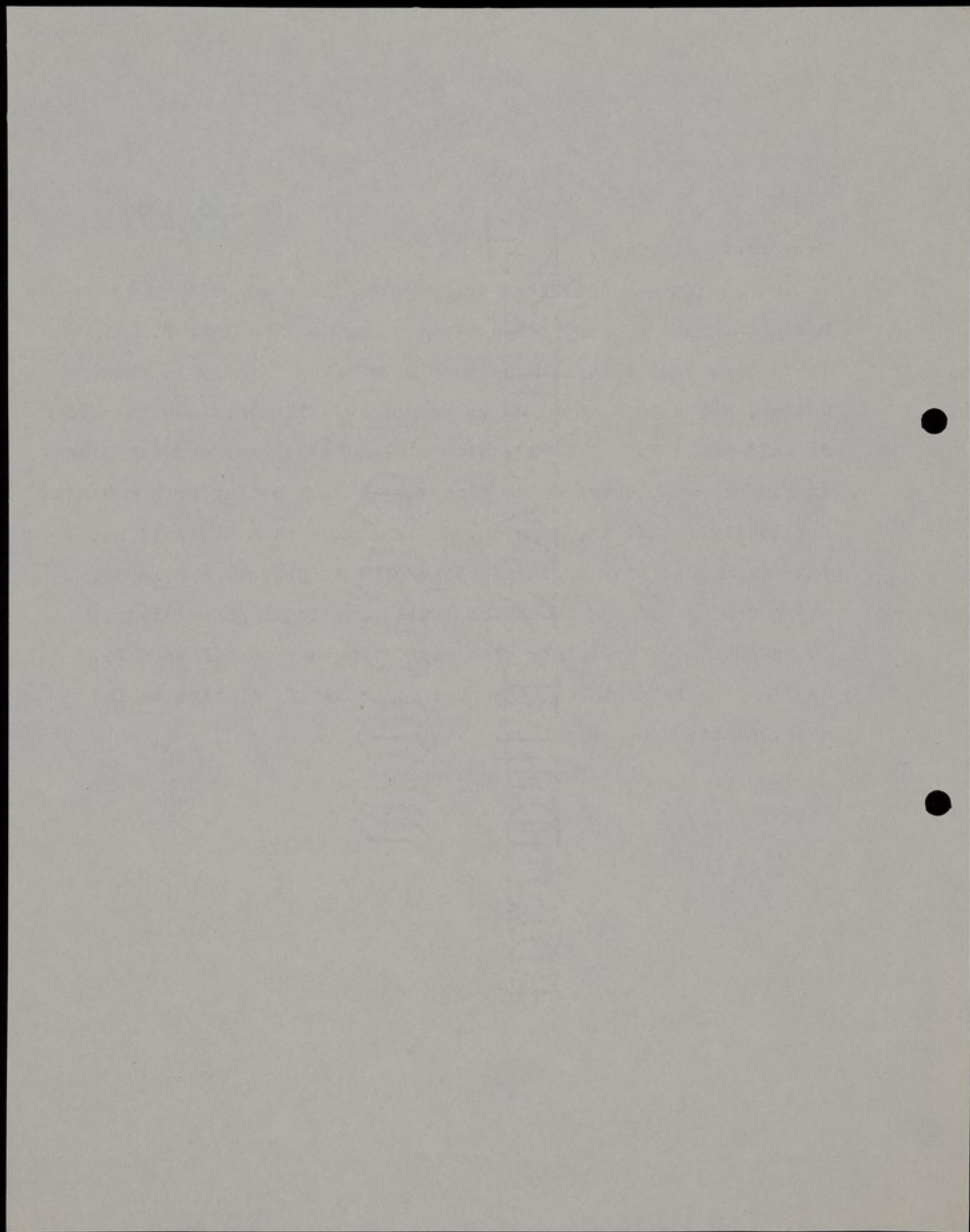
Yours very truly,

Dec. 10, 1908

Dear Bertram Watson,

You may hear from Mr. Guy that I have written to him about Miss Austin. I enclose a copy of the letter. It is important that no step should be taken hastily in this matter, as, should anything go wrong, it will certainly be said "I told you so". I had quite a pleasant interview with Miss Austin and was surprised to find her so much better both mentally and bodily. It is, however, no less true that it would not take much adversity or injudicious care to provoke a relapse, and certainly if she is contemplating any legal proceedings it would almost certainly precipitate further mental trouble. So if there is anything more that you know of relative to the case, please send me a line.

Yours very truly,



Dec. 16, 1908

Dear Miss Austin,

At the meeting of the Retreat Committee yesterday it was decided not to renew the leave of absence beyond the 17th of this month, and in the ordinary course this means that the certificates will lapse at the end of the year and you will not be subject to any leave of control.

May I urge you in view of this to remember the subject of our conversation together. If it be possible I would suggest your remaining in your present circumstances and not attempting any change whatsoever for some little time.

Yours very truly,

EXHIBIT



1911

1912

1913

1914

1915

1916

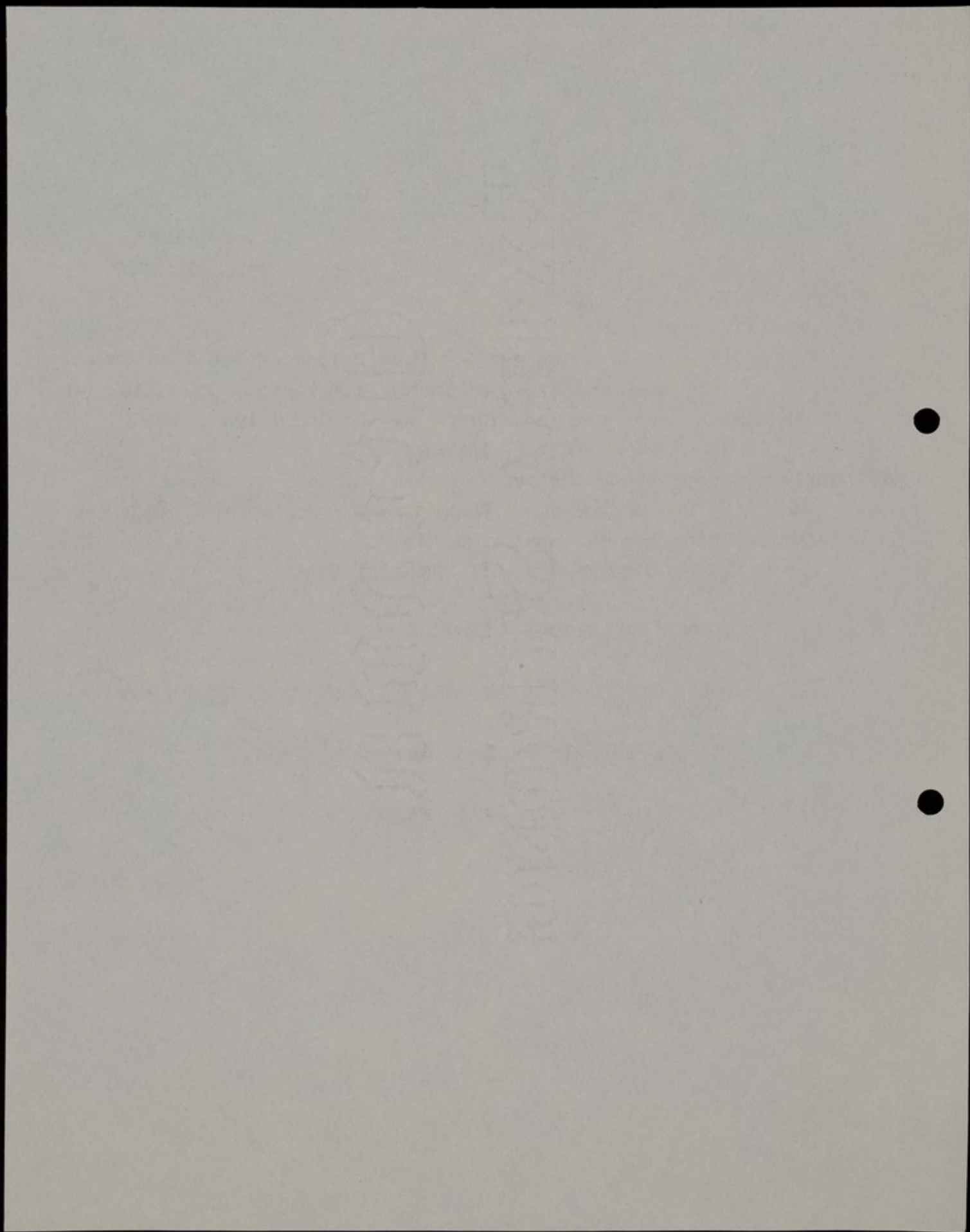
Dec. 16, 1908

Dear Mr. Ward,

I have to thank you for your letter of December 3rd.

The matter has now been considered by the Committee , and I
enclose a copy of the letter I am writing to Mrs. Mardon
which explains how the matter stands.

Yours very truly,



Dec. 16, 1908

Dear Sir,

I have to thank you for your letter of the 11th inst.
which seemed to me very satisfactory.

The Committee at their meeting yesterday considered
the question of Miss Austin's leave of absence and decided
not to renew it beyond the 17th inst.

The effect of this will be that in 14 days she will
be at liberty, viz. on the last day of the year.

Yours very truly,

Rev. D.S. Guy

AND

6, PARK SQUARE.

LEEDS.

BY APPOINTMENT.

TUESDAY, } 1.30 TO 4 P.M.
FRIDAY }

TELEPHONE { YORK N° 112.
LEEDS N° 391X.

THE RETREAT

YORK.

Dec. 14, 1908

James Alfred Brown

Gentlemen,

In view of the irregularity in these certificates

(373)

AUSTIN FRIARS.

DEWSBURY.

4th June 1808

D. Bedford Pierce,

Dear Sir,

I am very much
obliged for the Copy of
letter received by you from
M^r Mallinson & also
your reply to it which,
I think should satisfy
him as to the necessity
of Miss Austin's treatment.
I have received a

letter from Mr Barber
Expressing a great
interest in Miss Austin
& being desirous to assist
her, if possible. I hope
to be in Harrogate before
very long when I will
endeavour to see him &
go into the matter. I
don't think he understands
her limited income

Again thanking you

I remain

Yours faithfully

J. W. Ward

paid for my further trouble and hum-
iliation is related to me or what was
Polly Austin. I have only received a P6
from W. Ward for 20/- in answer to the
lawyer's reminder that my expenses were
still coming on - 20/- in four weeks without
board or cake such as I have been obliged
to take makes me a free person I take it
and not the dangerous and extravagant
person kept so long under her constraint from
her better self and happier ways -
I long to associate my self with my money
and have been more than to the lawyer's
office to see if I cannot get free from
what is to me a vulgar resistance to am
me capable of looking after my own inter-
ests and doing it much better than to be
a convenience for strangers - my health
is much better than all the five months
in a stormy house with what to me was
death in the highest form I scarcely know
the idiot who suffered so patiently what is
a horrible consequence - I am oppressed
with curvatures and broken tipped and

lame people, I see and feel them everywhere
in a broken and crooked way I need not
have known - my clothing is abominable
it was bought for mourning last November
it seems as if I cannot escape it nor cast it
my brother answered through the telephone
to W. Barber that the money would be paid
to W. Gray without fail. I don't doubt that
but for me to be placed in a gentle man
family without suitable clothing and no
money at my command and a few debts
which I have made with my kindest re-
lations I feel as if I wish to sink & on
why I may not know plain sailing to my
own haven which has been in view lately
and my dear Harriet Stowell's presence
should haunt me as the loss of some thing
who broke my heart and cracked my brain
I really did not require to meet her but
I really did not know her as able to where my true
destiny would have taken me - with proper
treatment. There is much in my last
two years which might have been spared to
my advantage. I feel old and emptied
of what I longed for most of all a true end.

I find more I have with those who
pass so same that my mental condition
has been held in an extravagant
light and really only was questionable
while held among those who questioned
to-day I am sure of this for it is the
anniversary of my brother - Harry
Austin's death five years ago when
I begged to be removed from Kingsdown
and the care of D. Harry Crawford
knackerman at Kingsdown - I was
where else for a trial of acting upon
my own hearty desires - my place
was beside my brother whose spirit
kept me ill at Kingsdown - to-day
I am satisfied it was right to have
left there and my condition was
safe to give me a trial - to-day I
have had a visit from a cousin and
his wife - Harry and Annie Austin
who have enjoyed life since then as

I have been made to understand -
they have two daughters Harriett and
Betty - I have also had another visit from
a second cousin Harry with his wife
Annie, but have had no visit from
my sisters however great my need.
Harriett Austin wrote home at Barn-
wood and through some power unseen
her letter reached me and I remember
it was to ask me to join a Christian
Endeavour Society whose motto was
bear each others burdens etc - which
was altogether psychological and
as I know how joined the society I
was destined to meet in later years -
I try to do what is right but I cannot
help seeing that what I am desiring
was done in resistance to my prayers
for a more natural life than what
was given by those who still do not
regain me love as I once was -
my brother - W. Ward wrote in answer
to the telephone which I enclose for

76. Franklin Road
Harrogate, 24th June 1908

Doctor Pierce,
The Retreat,
York.

Dear Doctor Pierce,

I have delayed replying to your letter of the 1st June in regard to Miss Anstie until I felt I could upon a longer and more constant period of observance be in a better position to express an opinion. I have had that advantage - Miss Anstie stayed with us from Saturday May 30th until Monday June 15th and from that date she has been staying with my son

and his wife as the Vicar⁴⁴⁷ of Christ Church was not free to take Miss Anstie until about the end of the present month. - I have therefore had plenty of opportunity of judging as to her sanity, and my candid opinion is that if she be now considered insane a very great number of the people I know should be put under curative restraint. - I really can see no reason why she should not have full liberty.

I may say that her company has done us good and enlivened our household wonderfully at the time when the boys had left us rather quieter than usual; and it

has been good to the invigorating effect which simple healthy home life has had upon her. -

I confess that her feelings are very strong against her relatives; but ~~it~~ they are only what would be felt and given expression to by any strong minded woman who ~~is~~ considered that she had been badly treated. -

Totally apart from what she may feel in regard to her disease towards them, there are two circumstances which indicate clearly to me that they are at least somewhat inconsiderate. - One circumstance is that she Miss Austin has received from Mr Ward only £1 during the present

month which has scarcely been sufficient for her laundry bill, and she has been obliged to have recourse to borrowing to keep going. -

The second circumstance is that although she has had letters from Mr Ward & Mrs Mardon they have not had the good manners to mention my wife in their letters, much more write her a line expressive of their appreciation of her kindness. -

Personally I am not acquainted with them but Mrs Ward & Mrs Mardon are cousins to my wife & a word to her wd. have been appreciated. -

Hence I have not conceived a very high opinion of their consideration to Miss Austin.

Yours faithfully

J. P. Mallinson

AUSTIN FRIARS,

DEWSBURY.

28th June /08

D. Bedford Pierce,

Dear Sir

I thank you for
your letter of yesterday.
I wrote to Miss Austin on
Friday & sent her a Cheque
for £5 7. & I told her
that I had understood
from a previous letter of
hers that she was getting
new clothing, but as she
had not done so, it was
agreeable to me for her

for her personal use & I hope that this will be agreeable to her. I was not able to see Mr. Guy on Saturday as I hoped, but intend doing so as soon as I can & that matters may be so arranged which will do away with the constant trouble you have had.

Yours faithfully
J. N. Ward

to get what was necessary. She also said that she intended to pay Mr. Hallinson the same terms as had been paid elsewhere, but I don't suppose that would be accepted. Mr. Barber telephoned me on Friday respecting the new clothes & pocket money, so I presume he is the Solicitor she has consulted. I am writing to Miss Austin & asking her to let me know when she has got what she requires & suggesting that I send her 10/- a week

452

AUSTIN FRIARS.

DEMSBURY.

26 June/08

Dear Pollic

I understand from Dr. Pierce that you are going on the 1st July to stay at Christ Church Vicarage at 2½ guineas weekly & Mr Barber has telephoned this morning saying you were anxious to get some summer clothing. I thought you would have got them after what you said in your letter of 18th inst. However I should like you to use care in buying

I Enclose a cheque for
£5 7. which Mr Mallinson
may probably be able to get
cash for. If you will let
me know what else you
require, I will see what
can be done. The Enclosed
ap has been sent to me
which I presume is correct.
I am very busy with Bank
Balance at present.

I remain

Yours faithfully

J W Hard

470

"Ingele"
King Edwards Drive
Harris gate
June 18. 1908

Dear D. Pierce. I am sending you
another of Mrs. King Edwards' letters -
I really don't wish to see her again
nor Mrs. Ward. I begged her to come
home in March & longed for her
and my nephew Austin - whom
I begged of her five years ago to send
to Clayton College instead of to Marlboro
and Marlborough. Since then he
has been like me under the trying
hand of affliction - my sisters do not
know me ~~and~~ those who are kind
to me or they would have written
to these cousins who have been all
that is kind to me hoping for me to

be well.

My brother in law Mr. Ward has
only supplied me with 20/- of ~~order~~
which I was obliged to ask Mr. Barber
to remind him that I was in need
of money - it is a fortnight ago
and has been spent in laundry
expenses and absolute necessities.
I am still without suitable
summer clothing and no body
gives me permission to buy any.
My health is much improved
since I left Dagen Parade and
the few months spent there are
now a horrible dream of suffering.
I shall like to be at the Theatre
and am quite sure they will
make me happy. My embroidery
is progressing satisfactorily and
I believe by the time it is finished
that I shall be quite able to

do something better without the
aid of such as appointed them
debtors over me. My cousins
are all that is sane and kind
and I am grateful for their
loving care of me. I shall hope
to pay it back some day soon -
when my own money is returned
to me. With kind regards

Yours faithfully
Pattie Austin.

418
3, Richmond Park Road,
Clifton,
Bristol.

June 17th

Dear Sir

I received
your letter this
morning. I have
heard from my
sister that she
was going to stay
with a cousin at

Forsooth
Omniscient

It is a pity now.
That Miss Peters
is dead but I
should think the
arrangement
made for her to
stay with the
Vicar of Christ
Church will be
a much better
one.

(398)

AUSTIN FRIARS,

DEWSBURY.

15th June 08

D. Bedford Pierce.

Dear Sir

I am very much obliged to you for your letter of yesterday & am glad to hear that suitable arrangements can be made for Miss Austin to stay at Christ Church Vicarage Harrogate for a while on probation. I am quite agreeable to the arrangement, if my consent is necessary, subject of course, to your sanction, as I suppose she

will still be attached to
the Retreat. Ought not Mrs
Mardon be advised of the
change so that she will know
what is being done?

As to the terms, I may be in
Harrogate on Saturday next
I will try & see the Vicar.

Yours faithfully
J. W. Ward

I return D Watson's letter.

Mount Laurel,
104, Walker Road,
Harrogate.

June 13. 1906

Dear Mr Price.

You will be glad to hear
that arrangements have been made for
Miss Austin which ought to be very satisfactory.
She is to go with your approval. In a few
weeks to Christ Church Vicarage (Mr Guy's)
and if the experiment turns out well. She
can stay there as long as she likes. As to
payment. Mr Guy thinks $2\frac{1}{2}$ guineas a
reasonable weekly payment. As they
cannot accommodate her until July 1, she
is obliged to stay with her cousin until
that time. but only on the basis of

the payment of the weekly sum to her
cousin.

I feel sure you will approve of these
arrangements.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

Bertram Watson

and Mr. Frank Barber, Solicitor: who is Broad
 by One Ash, Beech Grove and there I know as well
 will Mr. Ingram if my brother-in-law is prepared
 to sign a paper releasing me from their control
 and if so he may come to see me if not and it is
 only as he has been the last two weeks I decline
 to have a personal interview as I am set for.
 I need without drawback of any business any
 kind. I am anxious now to pull my own purse
 strings so to speak and my direct for cash down
 so as to make both ends meet and keep on the
 safe side of my balance both in health and
 wealth. When I am quite ready I shall
 have compensation for enduring the new
 faculty for twelve if not fourteen years
 and suffering from its development - I
 may be said to be a possessor of what is not
 required. I refer to newspaper cutting enclosed.
 Will you kindly say that I am free and
 that you will ask the Commissioners to release
 my money so that it may be remitted to its
 healthy condition of interest which would be
 enough for me to go to London and look after
 my real estate which is in my self and a
 proper way of living to make me all I was
 I am grateful for a month's progress and the end
 of a full decade of resistance from that which I deny
 but which has held me unlawfully by entrance into Barn-
 wood House Gloucester was on the East

Sunday next I shall
 go to Church with a glad
 heart and a thankful
 mind. With kindest regards
 Yours faithfully
 Mrs. Purcell
 23, Dragon Parade
 Harrogate
 January 31: 1908

Dear D. Purcell, I am most happy to tell
 you that my month of trust and liberty
 has been quite successful I am now
 quite ready to go on to a fuller and a
 freer life if you will take the means
 of freeing me from those who have held
 me down and driven through the tempest.
 There has not been one hour of misery
 that was not under what holds me up
 I feel much sayer than I can explain
 And long to be put to a stronger test.
 The contract which I signed I have kept
 in spirit and in letter and this
 morning decided to tell you so and
 also ask that it need not be renewed.
 While walking I met Miss Fletcher

of Dear Mary, Sarah Jane you know -
with her mother aged ninety-five and a
maid and a Dachshund dog - She knew
me and would not let me pass her so
for the first time for ten years I took a
friend of my youth by the hand and
felt real glad and especially such
a one for she was one ^{at} whom I looked
with great respect. I turned and
walked home with her and our con-
versation was most refreshing. They
are staying at the Stanley Hotel and
have been there since October. She made
kind inquiries as to how I intended
to do with my self but I was dis-creet
and replied that I really did not
know. But I said as she was so very
much alone and I was the same
there might come a time when we
should join and go abroad together.
And we both looked at the closed Bath
Chair and understood. She told me
that they lived neighbours to my brother -

Mr. Law Mr. Ward and that she had a great
liking for him. As it happens Mrs. Peters this
morning had a letter from him saying he ~~was~~
intended to pay me a visit next week. As
you are the first person who has given me
the use of my free will and so much of my
freedom that it has procured me myself
I prefer to trust my self to that authority
which can see a broader way than that
to which I was kept. There is no earthly
reason why I should not use my own
way the money which has been put so long
to an unnecessary outlay and I beg of
you to tell me if it is in your power to ask
the Commissioners to put it at my own
disposal for my proper way of doing - if not
will you allow me to take legal advice
to know how to proceed in my own respons-
ibility which requires to be exercised a
little more. There is a solicitor here of
good social standing whose wife was a
friend of my young days also of Mr. Far-
quhar's - I have met her most days while
walking with several members of her family.
I should like to renew my acquaintance
with them if you do not mind. They are Mr.

AUSTIN FRIARS,

330

DEWSBURY.

22 May 108

Dr. Pierce,

Dear Sir,

I am writing to ask whether you think Miss Austin's stay at Harrogate has been long enough for a trial visit. I am having Bills sent to me for food, which ^{she} is buying without consideration of her means. If she is allowed her own way in money matters, I must resign the position ^{as} I

RECEIVED
JAN 15 1887
I cannot make her understand her position. I thought perhaps you could write her on the subject of leaving Hanogah.

Yours faithfully
J W Ward

Mount Laurel,
104, Walker Road,
Harrogate.

June 1

Dear Mr Perce.

Please do not apologise for
the little trouble re Mrs Austin. I am
glad to be of any service for her.
She has been to see me this afternoon & tells
me she is staying with Mrs Waller
for a fortnight. I am going up to look at
Mrs Walton's. as Mrs A. seems
prejudiced against Mrs Peckham's & is anxious
to get somewhere with children or young
people. I will write to you again when
definite arrangements are made.
With kind regards sincerely yours

Beulah Watson

Mount Laurel
N. J. 08054
August 1961

I have been to Church twice
to-day and with a full heart
have seen that I and my case
are in what we are taught to
believe - Such truths are precious
after the humiliating press
of adversity and oppression.
You will read the lesson
appointed for this morning You
will see. Deut 30. & John 12.
with a loving reminder from Eph 4.
by the dear of Christ Church -
I have found my rest and I
will keep it for the next two
months in congenial work - &
with such a burden it seems to me
hyper-critical to keep my name on
a list it need not have known so long
I thank you again for your kind care of me
Yours sincerely Polly Austin

(358)
Burling Villa
Franklin Road
Harrowgate
May 31. 1908

Dear S. Pierce I arrived safely
and found my cousins all that
is kind and loving and as the
family is smaller by two boys
away for their holiday I am
asked to stay for a fortnight
at the least as a welcome guest
This is so sincere that I wish to
accept of their kindness and
wish it had come from those
even still nearer to me by real
relationship. You must please

put the blessing home out of your
mind I refuse to enter into any
more houses of sickness & death.
I put my self once more under
the protection of the Church and
its rule to which I have a very
strong and obvious tie in my
new work and with my new
relations who offer me hospitality
as Christians in a spirit of the
Church I shall defy my sister
Mrs. Mardon and my brother-in-
law Mr. Ward to commit me
to any more strangers care and
rule until I show more signs
of mental derangement and
stubborn regard to common sense
my brother-in-law has often

told me he could not do any thing
with me nor come without permission
from my sister Mrs. Mardon who
has only written to me once since
January and to whom I wrote
on Ascension Day (Thursday) -
enclosing the two letters to Sam-
pson Mr. Guy and Mr. Barber -
If she with any body who will not
entertain me as my poor cousins
have done tries to take my person
to do what I do not require - I
think the law should be turned
upon her and she be allowed
to take at the utmost regain the
lunacy law as I my self have
known and suffered patiently
for nine years too long with
ordinary interest in a relatives
return to a normal life -

76. Franklin Road
Harrogate, 31st May 1908

Dr Pierce,
The Retreat
York.

Dear Doctor,

I dare say you will be glad to receive a few lines from me in regard to my wife's cousin, Miss Anson. — She arrived quite safely yesterday and seems to be quite comfortable and happy with us in our home; and, may I add, she is quite a welcome guest with us. —

As two of our boys left home yesterday for a fortnight's holiday, our cousin's visit is during that period accom-

panied with the maximum⁽³⁵⁹⁾ of comfort to her and the minimum of inconvenience to us. —

We had lost sight of her — as was natural under the circumstances — for ten to a dozen years; and it was only by an accidental meeting with her a fortnight ago that we knew she was in Harrogate or indeed in this part of the country at all. —

The story of that period was quite unknown to us until she related it a fortnight ago. —

We do not, of course, know what arrangement is proposed permanently; but judging from our brief experience, it seems to us that the lines she desires — namely, to be away

from sickness and restraint
and Institutional rule - are
the lines that should be
followed; and - of course subject
to your greater experience -
are the lines which would
confer upon her the greatest
benefit and happiness. - So
far as we can judge, we see
no reason why she should
be debarred from ordinary
home life if such can
be made available. -

In the mean time as
our guest we are happy to
do ^{all} we can for her comfort
& welfare.

Yours faithfully
J. P. Mallinson

riding a horse &c.
She came for the day with
Miss Peters to see us, & I
believe enjoyed it, but
I should not care to have
her continually, even if we
could accommodate her.
Of course I must be guided
by your advice as to where
she should go. Is it possible
for her to be taken in at
£2 7/- per week?

Yours faithfully
J. N. Hard

(347)

AUSTIN FRIARS.

DEWSBURY.

24th May 1908

Dr. Pierce

Dear Sir,

I am obliged for
your letter of 22nd inst.
I cannot say that Miss
Austin has been extensively
spending money, but I was
annoyed on receiving a
Bill for a Riding Hat &c
after having had an Enquiry
a few weeks ago from another

firm asking if they might
trust Miss Austin, say £10
for millinery & I have no
wish to send her back to the
Retreat as I believe that
she has behaved herself very
well with Miss Peters, & that
it would be unwise to go back
to the old conditions. Still
I think her stay at Harrogate
has been sufficiently long &
that a change elsewhere
might be tried. It is the
question of finances which
is the difficulty & I cannot
get Miss Austin to realise
how limited her income is,
& that she cannot afford

Mount Laurel,
104, Walker Road,
Harrogate.

Wan 26
Dear W Pierce,

I do not feel altogether
happy about Miss Austin. Is she
under any control?
My late partner Moulden has just
telephoned telling me that she called
on him this morning & was full of all
sorts of delusions, and of breaking
away altogether. Do you think
there is any successful tendency?
Of course you know much more of

her than I do, but I thought you should
know the position here
with kind regards.

Yours very truly

Bertie Watson

AUSTIN FRIARS.

DEWSBURY.

28th May 1908

Dr. Bedford Pierce.

Dear Sir,

I thank you for
your letter of 25th & also
yesterday. I am sorry if
I have appeared to wish
to give you the responsibility
of finding another place
for Miss Austin, as I know
you have had plenty of
trouble with her as it is,

but I thought that you
might, perhaps, know of
some suitable place where
the expense would not be
so great. I do not know
of any Cousin to whom
Miss Austin might go. She
wrote to me on Monday, said
you had given permission
for her to go into lodgings
in Walker Road, Harrogate.
I am at a loss to know what
to do in the matter, as her
case seems to be a peculiar
one, & her sister M^{rs} Mardon
does not appear to be at
all interested in her welfare.

Yours faithfully

J N Ward

Send opinion about the
case, & also if you think
she will ever recover.

Is her health fairly
good?

Yours faithfully

A. B. Brackenburg

Dr. Fredric Peice

EATON SOCON,
ST. NEOTS.

20 March 1908

Dear Sir,

I have received a very
unhappy letter from Miss Allen
which makes me rather anxious
about her. & as I have not
heard from you for sometime
I shall be glad to know
your opinion of her case.

She says in her letter
that she is getting worse
every day & knows now
that there is no hope of
anything else. Her head

NOTES
1870

is always bad. They give her she
says a bit of medicine which
makes it worse - she adds

"Nobody can help me & there
is nothing but nursing before
me - I am not well for
one year back again but the
part is inevitable - I don't
suppose I shall write you
many more letters as I get
rapidly worse - They gave
me one two or three sleeping

"powders" but although I slept
a little I was worse next day"

I should like to know
whether this is simply imagination
or whether she is really getting
worse - I don't want to
have the trouble of going down
to Scarborough at present - unless
absolutely necessary - Do
you think a change back
to York would be any use -

I shall be glad to have your

195
✓ "Chadcote",

HARROGATE.

Mch. 20th, 1908.

Dear Sir,

I and Mrs. Barber are deeply interested in the case of Miss Austin, who has been under your care for mental trouble. She is an old friend of Mrs. Barber's, and we have been very charmed to have her with us on several occasions since she came to Harrogate. Her conduct in our presence has not only been free from suspicion, but has been perfectly womanly and natural. She is undoubtedly much better in her general health since she came to Harrogate, but her great trouble appears to be in not being allowed to visit her friends out of the town, and so by renewing her old friendships join the thread which was broken by her trouble. I and Mrs. Barber feel that we ought to do something to help her in the matter because we think that she feels herself entirely neglected by those who ought to take a greater interest in her. We feel that if she were allowed to move among such of her old friends as would be glad to welcome her it would very much brighten her life, and prevent a recurrence of her former trouble. She has no desire whatever to molest her own relatives, but there are other old friends besides ourselves who do not reside in Harrogate who would be very glad to have her.

I write all this, of course, with all deference to your

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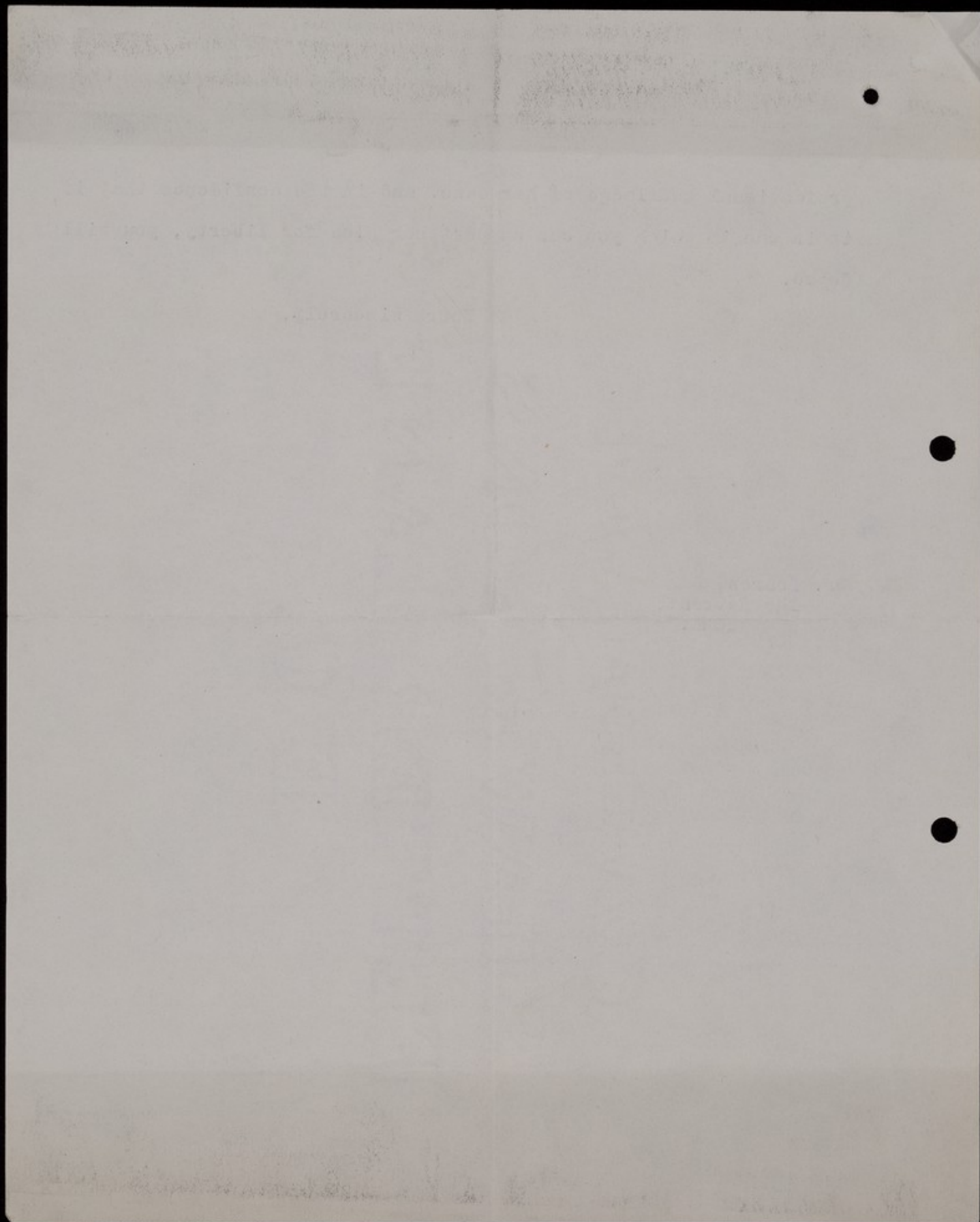
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professional knowledge of her case. and in the confidence that if it is one in which you can support her plea for liberty, you will do so.

Yours sincerely,

W. Barlow

Dr. Pearce,
The Retreat,
YORK.



wants more, but that is
all her brother & her will
give. She went for a
cycle ride yesterday —
Do you think it right for her
being so deaf? Motor cars
are numerous too. Dr.
Watson thought she ought
not. if forbidden by Dr.
Pierce please tell her so
with kind regards

Yours sincerely
A M Peters

191
Thursday

Dear Dr. Kemp.

I asked Miss Austin
this morning if she
had pawned any
jewellery, her reply
was that if Dr. Pierce
wrote to ask her she
would answer, but
she would not answer

my question, she
evidently wants much
to have her own way -
I thought she looked
guilty of having sold
something - but I do
not really know. She
has refused her allowance
of 4/- per week; as she

Exercise giving me what I need
so much. My health is glorious
I am better daily and braver too
My own way which is my right
With kind regards

Yours faithfully
John Austin

23 Dragon Parade

Harrogate

March 15. 1908

(179)
Dear D. Perci, I purpose coming
to the Retreat to-morrow to see you
and obtain from you my papers
of discharge or what ever sets
me free from a foolish position
I am surprised I have not heard
from York since the Commissioners
paid their visit last week - I am
coming to inquire as if nobody
cares for my welfare I care very

lunch for my self and the
better part of me which requires
the best and has been deprived
of it so long because nobody
has cared enough for a life.

You have a little penillery of
mine in the safe - I should be
pleased to have it returned I
want to wear the cross and
chain to remind another per-
haps. My intention is just as
pure and my way as true
as ten years ago.

I inclose a letter of my sister
Annie's from Barnemount which

arrived immediately after I had
written to you - I answered it saying I
was waiting here because of the need
for a better place to go to - but perhaps
her children would be stranger if
they had not with them for awhile.

I trusted her heart would be moved
to pity me and my great loneliness.
Reigate is a healthy place and
I have two or three more warm
welcomes waiting me there - it

would be delightful to feel my self
in the bosom of a family once more.

I trust you will be at home in the
morning - I shall come by the 10.5
train if I don't hear from you to the
contrary or have a letter in the

Austin away for
a change and.
Further I have with
me as well. Austin
has been in fluence
and it has left
him with a nasty
cough so I was
advised to bring
him away for a
change. The winter

is very cold so as
yet I cannot say he
is much better!
It must be nice for
you meeting some
of the old friends
again. Dr. Frank
Barber has quite
a large family if
I remember aright.
I never hear anything
of the gambles at all
now. I have not heard
from Agnes for quite a

SOLENT CLIFFS.
BOURNEMOUTH.
March 17th

Dear Sir

The "leave on
trial" does not seem
to have done my
sister much good
I have had one or
two very strange
letters from her
lately in which she
tells me she has

(176)
purchased some of her
jewellery and she
also says she is
"possessed with the
idea of kidnapping
a child and feels
she must do so."

I should like to be
assured that every
care is taken that
she does not make
herself conspicuous
in any way.

I shall be staying here
for a week longer

Yours truly
Annie Ingham

The wheel of Socialism and grab-grinds
horribly - Polie is the sheet anchor and
will give no heed because she is kept too
poor and in too low circumstances to think
such proceedings sane. I am often reminded
of Louis Harrison the dangerous suicide
and Wm. Barker another at depths I have
never reached there conquest was quite easy
because I hit at the right time and love
the right people. I am damned and
persecuted in by those who understand -
I have written to my brother-in-law to pay
what is owing and to Wm. H. Arding to pay
to look into my money affairs and release
me from a degrading position that I may
belong to myself to protect and feed -
I am not as rude as many would have been
with excess of thoughtfulness mis-placed -
I scorn the spirit that inspires it and
should be glad to go into a household where
the way of going was normal - vital and
with out such carefulness as I know. I am
feeling strong enough to work for my living if
need be rather than an in-becile convenience
I am disappointed and think those who think they
know right are very slack in doing it - I have much
more to say than necessary at being held to be done
more than necessary at being held to be done

23 Dragon Parade
Harrowgate
March 27 1906

163

Dear D. Preece, Miss Peters has been
troubled with delusions and fears about
me but not in this way I can take as quite
sane because my way of going has given no
cause to arouse them and I asked her
advice about the thing she has done in
a sudden impulse from what I call
my "check string". If I had heard from
you in answer to my last diagnosis
of another phase in a complicated case
I should doubtless not have been in
such need, or if my brother-in-law
Wm. Ward had paid what was due for
my board which Miss Peters had asked
him to do I should not have felt thus
enormous as if my land lady held me
and that my body was required until

the bill for lodgings was paid. I am not accountable for sudden fancies of people but I am made to suffer from them. My mind is not variable nor weak in its impulses to action. I have been quite open in my way. And words and had nothing to conceal. I said to her on Friday that as she appeared to try my friend had not kept her engagement to come home should I ask my friend if she would have me to take luncheon with her & bided if you think D. Currie would object will you write and tell him that I may know in time. She saw no objection to my asking to go which I did and read my answer in a letter which came yesterday morning. I paused half expecting her to say "perhaps you had better not go." I have a key to what she might say. She is an Annie. I told her last night and at dinner spoke of trains etc and take no notice of her objection and interference two mornings not the spirit

that prompted it. The fact was Annie rushed off with Pollie and Pollie's sister who does not know Annie Peter ~~but~~ who is not like her sister Susan whom I would not grieve in any way she will say that I hope. I have no intention of travelling again with a chaperon nor a nurse who have a service with Robert whom I scorn which I refuse to understand. My mind is more under divine control than those who try to badger me and are liable to attacks of hysteria and guidance. I do not accept as sound nor required two months is a fair trial to know if I am crooked or deceitful. I have nothing that comes under Cumaney there fore I think it is negligence to leave me a prey to circumstance controlled by those I had no need to know in my own way of going. I have my own friends who could answer my spirit and walk with me to a same end and not to there I have come from thanks to the prayers of those I love and yearn for with all my heart

Mount Laurel,
104, Walker Road,
Harrogate.

March 2.

Dear Mr Pierce.

Many thanks for your letter.

I have seen Miss Austin again today. Her
mental condition is not quite so satisfactory.

She is somewhat agitated lately. And

Miss Peters tells me delusions are again a
prominent feature. She was upset at not

being allowed to go by herself to Wethering

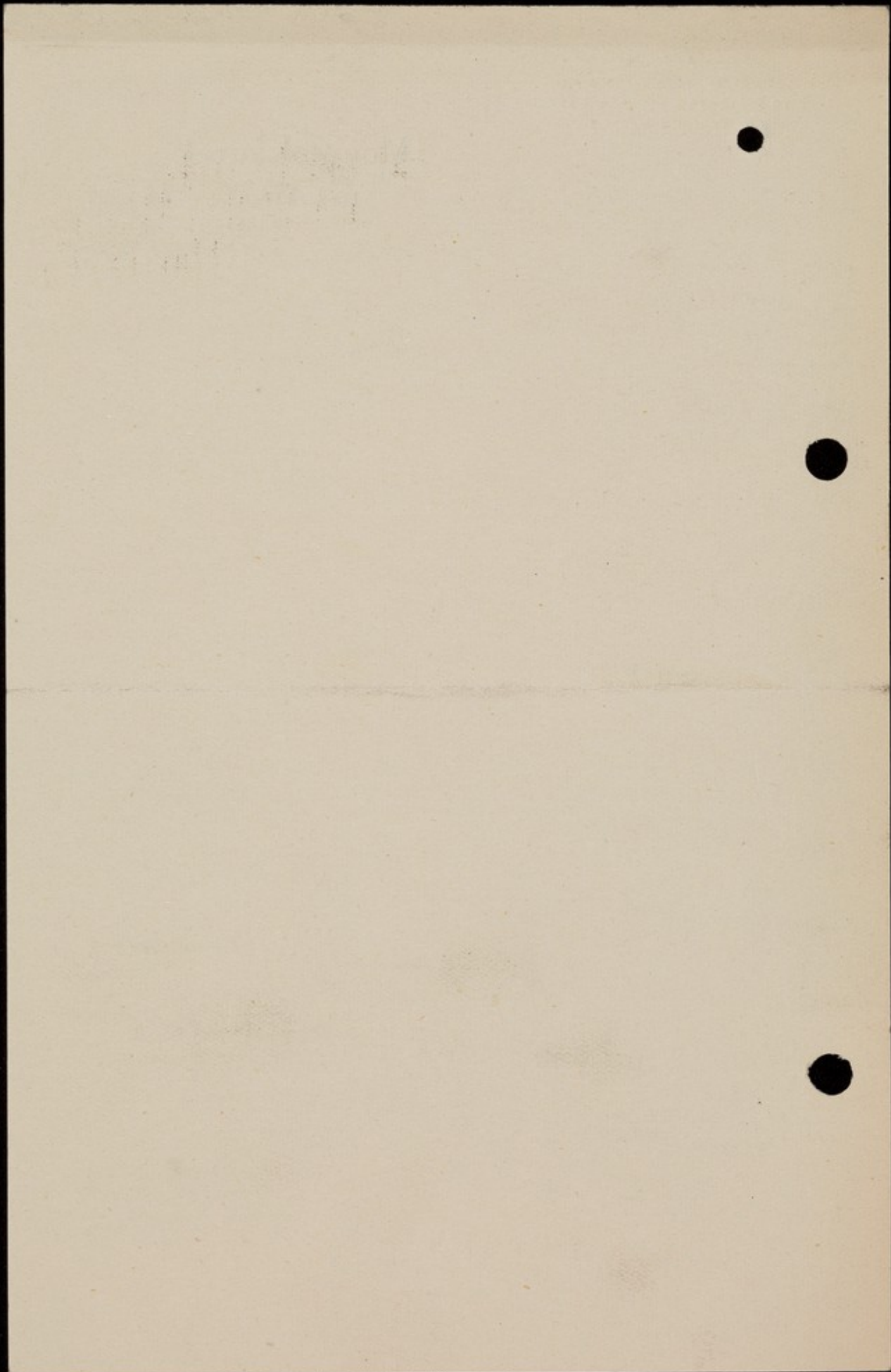
day which would not have been wise. But

she has settled down this evening.

I do not think Miss Simpson will come on for
a few weeks yet but will write you again

Sincerely yours

W B Stram Watson



I have seen stations or junctions in my
life • here if I had followed my heart's desire
but rest was straight home. I was thrust
into the wrong train so to speak or held up
like yesterday morning until the next thing
to do was quite another destiny. I am
like Jonah who got lost before he could do right
and satisfy that has kept me going on for
so long through the desert of loneliness - until
I have been I cannot take anything but
thankfulness as given to me in truth -
Will you try to discover the microscope of miracle's
resistance to do the right thing together on to
a better - the thing groans & is miserable I
am not not wish to be not give the life
to anything rotten and for misery -
With kind regards

Yours sincerely
John Austin

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29, Dragon Parade

Harrgate

Shrove Tuesday 1908

Dear D. Watson There are times when
I am conscious of a life about and
around me which has occasionally the
force of a coarser hunger, I call it a miracle
but I believe the thing thinks itself a re-
incarnation in any case it is objectionable
I have had blows hard enough to complain
of to D. Pierce. I have sought only my
liberty, if it is to be got only through the
suffering of another I am off that quest.
Last year at Hoxley my visitation was
partly understood, there was a suggestion
made that I should be put under the X
Ray. Our means and ideas did not
suit me so I declined what I had asked
for to suit my own time and convenience
which would have benefited science as
well as individuals. I have wished

to lay my flesh which requires to thwart
my highest purposes and weaken my
best efforts. Will you ask if you think
it advisable if those who are supposed
to take care of me. (Myself cannot blame
them) will allow such an examination.
It is part of the will and walk of those
about me weak and shuffling which
drags upon my spirit.

Two years ago I set out in resolution
to catch that which held me falsely at
my highest moments of exaltation and
left me hungry and dissatisfied. I
have a good cause and I know the
substance of the shadow which steals
from many who long for the best -
My hope has been that I should be free
enough to go to London and satisfy my-
self that such misery as I have been
subject to was not required for many
and those who will not know the best
should know the worst. I have kept my
mind and affections free for this
purpose, I don't need any person who

secures me in a certain position to
dispose of me that I cannot fulfil what
is true & just and a righteous thing. Who
steals my purse steals trash but who steals
my soul shall be made to pay back. I have
friends in London lawyers and medical men
who would help me to my own, that part which
has been withheld so long that I should
escape my decade of knowledge passing
understanding. I have never thought only
of myself or no doubt the way would have
opened. There is another part to me which
is superior. It is that part which rises
my indignation when I find I wish to give
my highest and my best if I am prevented.
then I am willing that the cause should be
discovered. God gave us free will to use it
in temperance and discretion. I wish to do
no other thing but I want myself as I have made
I have been a stranger to joy and what my
soul has hungered for I have watched a
thief take. Sometimes to cast away splen-
dors. I cannot think but that it was best
for me to take my own will and way after a
month of trial here in ~~the~~ ^{an} ~~arrogant~~ which was out-
side any thing I had wished or planned for myself
the rest has shaped itself in the will of others I
am not ready to say it is well for all I know
and have begun to know -

AT HOME
DAILY BETWEEN 2 AND 4 P.M.
JUNE TO SEPTEMBER, BETWEEN 2 AND 5 P.M.
TELEPHONE 204.

163

Mount Laurel,
104, Walker Road,
Harrogate.

4.3.18

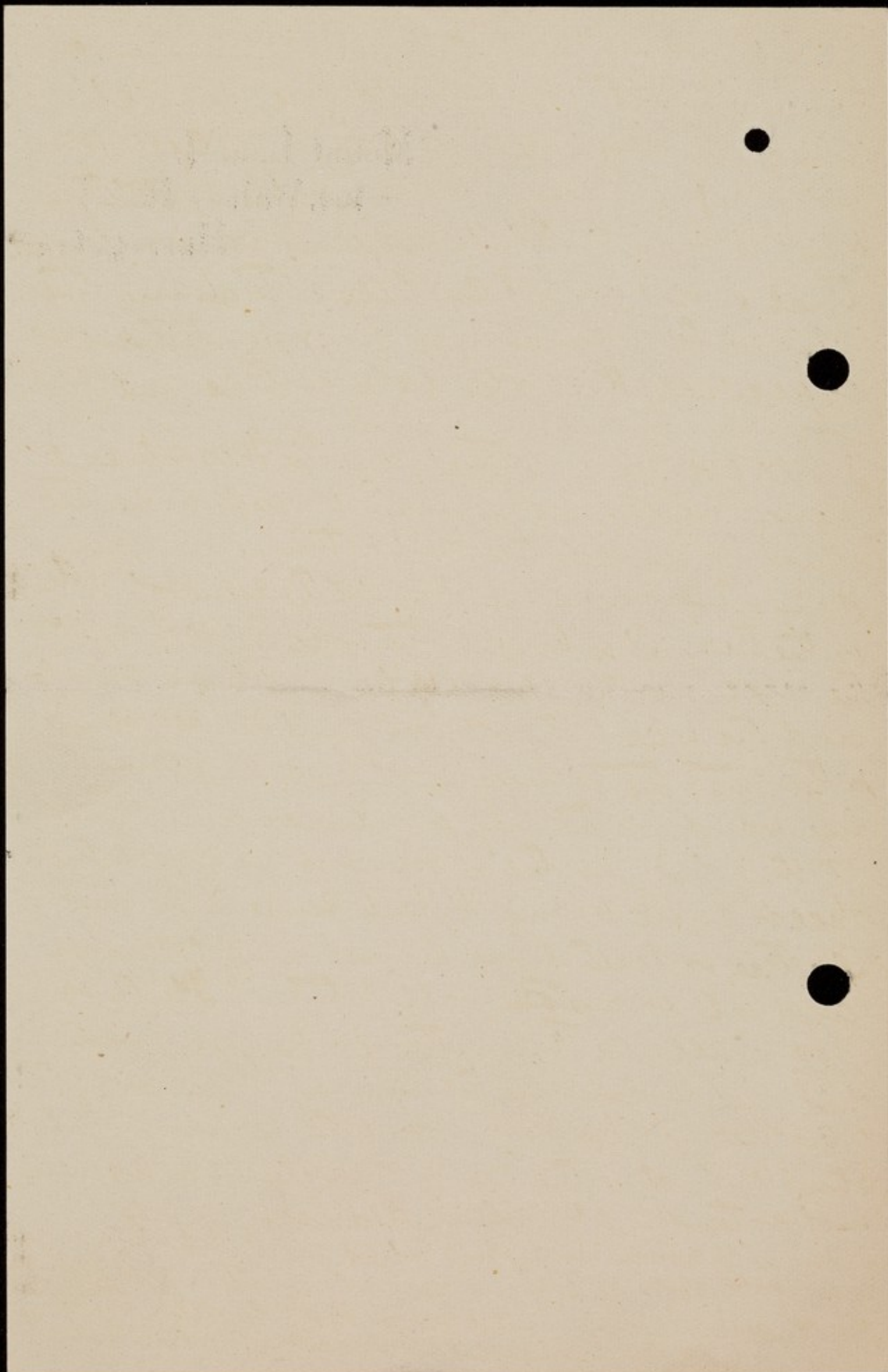
Dear Mr Pierce,

I enclose you a letter

I have received from Miss Austin.

Sincerely yours.

Betham Walker



in the art of Harrogate and am much
 taken up with what I find given to such.
 I have not consulted Mr. Barber in legal form
 nor sought a way out of my exile other than
 that is given but while suffering from prolonged
 trial I will not if I can help it that any other
 should be deceived and disappointed more
 especially those who look for true and real
 joy.

I will give you an extract from the "Theosophical
 Review" edited by Lucifer - it was given as "that
 which comes from the voice within"

The symbol of life is the serpent. The symbol of death
 is the tree. It is thought otherwise but so it is, for
 the serpent is the spiral of life and life a spiral
 and the tree of the woman and the serpent
 is this: that the woman in whom is the germ of
 life would be the only producer and bringer
 forth of life but the serpent is the life which
 needs no sex to bring it forth since it is life.
 The tree is death since it rises out of corruption
 and into corruption will return. Truth is
 all in all: the truth of things lies at once
 hid and revealed in its seeming. I am never out
 of the hearing of the spiral and the serpent - the
 thing of which is the cause of Influenza as men
 understand a prevailing disease.

I am a Christian and still believe all I did when I put
 in my gold cross and chain and a resolution. I believe in
 the Church of England and pray for it to prosper in truth.
 I am ready for my discharge to do true in my own true heart

I am not and true and Christ-like.
 With kind regards
 I am sincerely
 yours
 W. L. A.

23 Dragon Parade
 Harrogate
 Feb. 26. 1908 (159)

Dear D. Pierce you asked me to wait
 awhile in patience possessing my soul.
 I have tried to carry out your kind advice
 and after much struggling against the
 tide I am safe so far and to-day can
 once more say I have conquered what
 is set against me. I have been to see
 D. Bertram Watson this afternoon for
 the third time. He thinks me much better
 than a fortnight ago when I first went to
 consult him which I believe to be true.
 He is very charming and a true man.
 My choice fell on him because I was led
 to believe he was old and grey headed.
 To-day he has very kindly asked him Peter
 and myself to tea and to make new
 friends in Harrogate and he is a true
 joy to me. D. Pierce I have a romantic
 dream in my nature which has never allowed
 its satisfaction I am too old and faded to
 pretend to be young and hopeful. D. Bertram

Watson is too sweet and perfect to be treated rudely with disappointment. I would spare him much of what I have known and been obliged to take while trying to be patient. I have been denied a residence in Harrogate when I was young and the dates were kind to my friends. I cannot see the goodness of a stale state where I have tried for so long to come to, & where I find so many of those who lived near me in my young days but to whom I held a strong dislike. They are all brought here in such strong numbers and forms of dissenting sects that I see again there is a band of that which has held me in bondage for so many years. On Sunday I went to have tea with W. & Mrs. Frank Barber who welcomed me so warmly and gave me such a sweet taste of the family circle that my heart has been warmer and more responsive since. It has been the only medicine I required to put me into the same normal condition. I have been kept out of my own by a Socialist and the spirit of Socialism is the one I fight who told me instead of an honorable proposal

of marriage that he thought it impossible to live according to the sermon on the mount. If the Rev R. J. Campbell had not said the same last night I should not have been so sure that I see the true light which lighteth the world in a much better form than that which told me so and the Reverends who last night thought with Robert Perival Selton - I have a true and a straight course forward when I can take my will and make it an act until then I do not think I am at liberty to fidget or flit or even make love to any body because with my undoing there has been great issues which are developing. I am waiting patiently for the Commission in intimacy to do my name what they should have done long ago. Rome took or Harrogate as a related destiny was offered me as a wheel turn of the wheel - They should have been asked to consider my case in my own interests when life was sweet and my mind responsive - Theosophy makes people into other people and lifts those up into planes of thoughts who don't know where they are and so I find when the rank goes down there are those at the bottom who don't understand any better than those at the top - I find Theosophy and dissent very strong

Mount Laurel,
104, Walker Road,
Harrogate.

March 1.

Dear Mr. Peice.

I saw Miss Austin again on
Wednesday last. And found distinct
improvement in her physical condition.
Miss Simpson. The friends have decided
to try the effect of a week's change to the
seaside: if she is then on a stage you. I will
manage to see her with you at Park Square
to consider the next step.

With kindest regards.

Faithfully yours

W. B. Eaton - Balton

Handwritten text, possibly a date or reference number, located in the upper left corner.



his audience received his jokes coldly! -
I am very tired D. Pierce's "tall talk" &
speak in a creak - I know where things are
nice and crisp and delectable and
long to make my own marketing -
I am sending you a letter from a glorious
woman and mother who was a mother to
me for some time before I began to be ill - She
would take care of me again when I may go
D. Watson knows Reigate and probably them -
I shall go when the time comes but I do
not want to go to any where before then -
and my heart is joined from long guiding
among the pots and shreds -
I will wait now most patiently and
trust, still singing song of deliverance in
thankfulness for so much of what I have
beated for -

Calum's Cross is a very comfortable horse
not outside Reigate with all with that I
want and mabel - Mr. Welch is one of my
best friends my heart is sore to go - D.
Watson will tell me no doubt when I am
well enough to accept their hospitality -
With kind regards

Yours sincerely
Polly Austin

23 Dragon Parade
Harrogate

Feb 12: 1908

142
Dear D. Pierce, Thank you for your
Answer to my inquiry about a break
of circumstance which was another
of my efforts to do right as I hear it -
You are kind I know and see things in
a more practical form than I may had
so I take my checks as patiently as
I can and still rest in hope - which
is perhaps more tentatively speaking
but about in vain -

This afternoon I have been to consult D.
Bertram Watson whom I found very nice
but showing me many marks of the way
I had been made to come - I am a year
behind which can never be recovered
and my loss is nobody's gain - He
will write to you but I may tell you

[illegible]

that I feel myself "labeled" as the
American boy - & a lot has happened
since a part of nature share ever
known - my girl is so interested that I
am humbled by Sister Hannah (Miss
Smith) - who has always been as a girl
of the men - D. Walker calls my girlfriend
"Gent. - I call it 'pity deprivation' and
have sent her some & where I know
there had been of my self every day since
I came and know a lot that I
of struggle and spirit but unlike those
I hated the thing when I hoped that
left behind with in ten years away
with a revelation that I am the lord
looked at a party share teacher and
I heard - my father did not know after
the who has always chastened has
cuttled - but I shall, shall go through
my war no broken and never my self
and my supper from a small house
it is a good one set out for a kinder
and happiness is still in the mind of the
future. Like your part my heart
grows and expect a whole looking ending

in her new home, two years ago.
I have now my son & his wife
& two children living with us, the
house was too large for us, after
the three girls were married she
was giving up his house at Thames
Ditton. So I asked them to come here
instead of taking another. So we
are pretty well filled up again -
but we still have one spare room
where you will always be welcome
& where I hope to see you before
very long - Now do write & tell me
about yourself & if you are quite strong
again & when you are likely to be coming
South - I am just going to see Mabel

142
Feb 5. 1908
Miss Austin
I cannot tell
you how delighted we were
to get your P. card this morn-
ing - it was indeed a surprise
& a real pleasure - the last time
we heard of you, you were
very ill - that is some years
ago - but we often talk of you
& are very, very glad that you
are better - we shall be charmed
to see you again, you must let
us know your movements, and

the wife so very glad
to hear of you - with
love from all
Ever affecly yours
M. & J. Nicholson

When you come south you must close - in the Cottage Major ^{Hay} had -
Come & see us & we will talk Sybil also lives at Reigate now
over the old Monticau & Lierre close to the Station so they are
days. how much we shall all within a mile or two of us
have to talk about! I think the which is delightful as we see each
last time you were here was at other almost daily - You remem-
Sybil's wedding in 1896. Four ber the Hays of course - They
years later, Mabel was married lived at Reigate for some years
to Mr. Welch who has a school on going abroad for the winter
Reigate Hill - she has two dear generally. Then Maud married
little children, a girl of 6 & a boy & went to live in Hampshire & the
of 18 months. Winifred is also Major went to Bournemouth -
married to Arthur Collier. Whom we see them occasionally still
I think you knew. they live quite & Jimmy & I stayed with Maud

(105)

Mount Laurel,
104, Walker Road,
Harrogate.

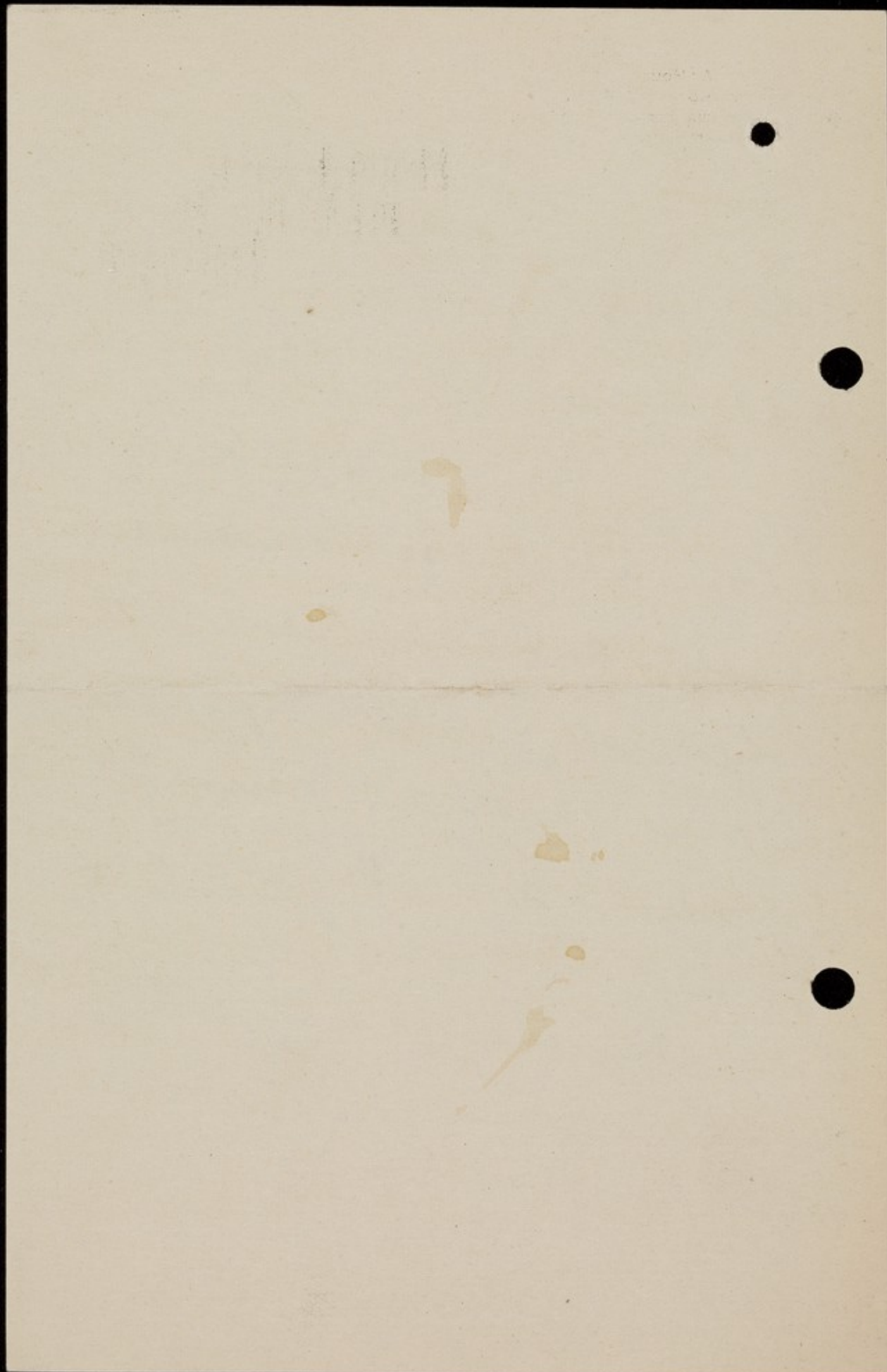
Feb 12. 1908

Dear Mr Pease.

Miss Austin has been to see me today. She is somewhat anaemic and generally rather below par. She is putting on weight rather rapidly - eight pounds in a couple of months, & in consequence I have restricted the caloric diet element in her diet.

I have also prescribed an iron tonic with kind regards. & thanking you for sending Miss Austin to me.

Sincerely yours,
Bertram Watson



It is highly respectable & I should enjoy
a table of that kind and feel myself altogether
when I am not able to do anywhere - My
lawyer should tell you if my speech was not
to be trusted and I would give you my word
not to do anything but what I would wish any
body to do to me to make for peace & plenty.

I would come back here again for a time
and feel satisfied that I had done my
part to go straight and true to a right end.
My brother-in-law is under Dr. Pronger who
lives across the way also my niece Beatrice
and my sister Agnes they began three months
ago and have gained much benefit from
his advice. Will you believe that I have a
spirit which can precede me & show me
that I am allowed to come late to my own
I wish to be careful but I also wish to have
something to be careful of and not a
delusion - my income is almost one as
it is. Will you let me go, say yes in faith
and try me as a proof of what I say, it is
worth while - I long to have life as well
as property and the Retreat shall have
its own weight of honour with kind regards

Yours faithfully

Pollie Austin

An end quite undesired & unregretted
By I am and safe people it is time I claim
ed what is due to me so that those I love may
not suffer further. My Brother Cyrus will
be my supporting point on that hangs my other
brothers' Harry! And that put straight
which ones to be done I could help others
to right who suffer wrong. W. Ward agrees
with me and knows my power to do it.

Thanks to something I am quite sure of
myself and have a true leading in most
things that I understand. I am wise to
take legal advice and begin at once
before the way is closed as it was before.

I have looked to that time since leaving
York and in anticipation having put
up at the Hotel which I beg of you ^{to allow me} to go
to for a week to consult my lawyer in
London, delay is dangerous, in a needy
cause and lives are precious when they
are consecrated to others and God's way.
I was impelled last week to write for
terms, it is a part where my spirit can-
guished ten years ago when I was held
of a wicked spirit of greed & imposition

23 Dragon Parade

Harrogate

January 31st 1906

Dear S. Kemp, I have just had your letter and hasten to answer it as I forgot to speak of D. Bertram Watson in my letter to St. Pierre this afternoon until the letter was posted. There has been a slight misunderstanding I think and in the meanwhile I have lost the fear and the attack of heart disturbance from which I suffered. I expected after telephoning my answer of choice that I should have a further instruction from York and did not decide to go without. The last few days I have been very well and to-day am quite fit for

a little pleasant excitement on
my own account that is to say in
taking the way I have looked at
so long and so eagerly while held
back and set aside to watch
them so as I am able to do.
Harrogate is a nice place but it
is not in my views to go forward.
I am living my old life over again
which is not advisable nor desired.
I should like to begin where I left
off and hope to do so to show those
who have cared for me enough to
set me free so far may be glad
at a successful recovery. I am
not waiting further good news
from Dr. Pierce I am a year late
and cannot see that a longer delay
is either necessary or wise before I
begin to gather up my means of

taking my own way - if the wheels
move as slowly to give me my own as
they have been me free so far I am
not beginning too soon nor urging
you and Dr. Pierce to finish your
kindness to my satisfaction. I
try to do everything true in spirit
and in letter as far as I am able
and to offend no body any more than
I wish to be offended with such
a right and well maintained in-
tention I shall not need my
sisters control to do otherwise.
Miss Fletcher with whom I had
a very pleasant conversation ^{to day} said
"I am sure we are all every body
troubled a little in the way or another
I am sure I am some times - What is
your way - I said I really don't know -
my complaint is with others by our
people I believe" Mrs sincerely
Polly Austin

to be poor and old and neglected - my
income in 1901 when D. Heatham released me
from Barnwood & my sister Annie W. Ward
transferred me to Bot was two hundred &
fifty pounds & probable three hundred. The
years following there has been losses of three
thous and pounds and perhaps the Wardons
who hold the money who are bankrupt may
claim from me and my sister at Dunsbury
W. Ward & perhaps three hundred & fifty
pounds to pay other creditors to the estate.
I proposed this and asked the Wardons
to allow me an interview at this office in
the presence of a nurse competent to under-
stand they resisted me so I said my day
will come when I shall claim my own
and compensation for unlawful detention
to provide false ends and means. It is
now my brother-in-law W. Ward sees with
me that my life has been neglected and I
am at liberty as far as he is concerned to
do what I will if you will give me my coat
I have allowed circumstance in a Christ-
like spirit and I have seen as a result Regicide
murder and all that is criminal.
It would be an accomplice if I were
to allow my self to be silent longer - I see

85
23, Dragon Parade
Harrogate
Feb 4. 1908

Dear D. Purcell. My brother W. Ward
came yesterday and we had a
pleasant interview. He gave me a
statement of my affairs which
have been allowed to deprive me
of almost all that was mine.
W. Ward has kept a strict acc-
ount of all as it has been shaped
but if my release had been sought
for instead of a reduction of my
means of living respectably I
need not have suffered with others
a vulgar squalid misery and
treacherous denouement which

is inevitable sooner or later in
the march of events. We are the
civilized world all horrified by the
work of an assassin - I know more
about it all and its cause than any
body on earth. If I could have been
listened to and heeded five years
ago when my people required me to
end my days in a lunatic asylum
so many things would have changed
their revolution and made happiness
instead of misery. My brother-in-law
showed me papers which will prove
all that I have to say and my con-
duct through out the last six years
has been suffering caused by oppres-
sion from environment and inability
to make my self understood for lack
of initiative such as Thew's and
Stawells have given to them in my
sight. Since coming to the asylum
I am carried through all the years
of my youth even to the cradle and

Before my birth in 1861. Rather a re-
markable year I believe. I don't wish to
begin a second ten years so I did the same
the first years in Bournemouth I could not
think what the power wanted in turning
back to begin again. Ten years has taught
me and kept me with my income so re-
duced that it is not enough to live upon
in the way I was living when I was called
by the spirit to change the world -
I am very practical now and have
learned to value money in its proper form.
I regret to know why if I could form
events in this way & destroy what I had to
pay for a very low price of treatment as
a lunatic. The Boer War was not quite
understood but it cost much and
many valuable lives I understood -
I have paid about two thousand pounds
for medical treatment during ten years
of enforced restriction from being my
better self and have seen countless
numbers benefit from contact with me
I have finished my course I have tried
to keep the faith I am on as I was pro-

23 Dragon Parade

Harrogate

February 2nd 1908

Dear D. Perci, Thank you for your letter of yesterday which is kind. Your advice to me & see my relatives I am acting upon as you leave me at liberty to do so. I wrote a few lines to my brother in law W. Hard asking him to come to Harrogate and make his visit one of business allowing me to have a day in the week arrangements made for my future. I trust I shall have a little of my own way and that my trial season has lasted long enough. Ten years to-day I began a ten years course of Anniversaries & keep the true way in waiting with patience.

At Church I learn much in connection
with what is given me to bear. The
gospel for to-day the fourth Sunday after
Epiphany teaches us to be subject unto
the higher powers. If I had not heard
the grinding of the wheels so heavily
and felt the opposing force so good
to set against me I might require
my sisters to lead me or leave me
led. I have tried to do good and am
not afraid and to strive to do more.
Even that from which I was taken;
I trust my Brother who is a Church
man will see that it is best to do
what has been delayed so long. I
am in the midst of the grind and
my spirit full of that against which
I have tried to keep myself, because I
will free to act for the hearts best
impulses. And with joy I will say as in
the lesson this morning. My heart shall not
approach me so long as I live.
With kind regards Yours sincerely
John Austin.

29 Dragon Parade

Harrogate

January 21st 1908

58

Dear D. Piercé,

In answer to your kind letter of this morning I must say that I am discouraged & not disappointed. I believe that you intend to be kind in asking me to stay where I am - as ~~you~~ when you sent me to Throcton Hall in February last year. But I believe also that if you could trust me fully you would find that I could take my own way and maintain it, much better than by waiting longer for stress of circumstance or impression causes to drive me back and not on to my goal.

It is almost three weeks since I left the Retreat and not one night has been free from dreams of those left there and

in such a depth of distress as I have
neither inspired nor attained of my self.
I have not once felt free in my sleep but
under the control of D. Kemp or one or two
of those with whom I had little to do.
Our dreams are and to be what we are
made of. But Anne I find have foreshadowed
my year's sorrow in perspective and never
as I could plan or expect for my self.
In the day time I am more self-possessed
and free in spirit than I have been for
some time and keep a thankful heart
that I have so far run so risks in the busy
travelling.

I have longed to be in London for the open-
ing of Parliament, to feel my self in the
full swing of life and fullness of living, I
could catch hold and go on to right
things with such friends as I cannot
doubt. My boarding-house life I believe
would make me a satisfied woman and
in trying to live right I should find
my health all that I desired. If you
think my ideas of trying to put right a
wrong would require too much of my mind
while still considered questionable I would

leave that part of my plans for awhile
and let it wait till I believe in such work
I should get my own true balance the worst
my heart has been pulled at and made
sore since last Wednesday afternoon - it is
because of that I have thought it right to see
a doctor in to consult so with your wife
I will consult with D. Bertram Watson
or D. Monillot and would take Anne
Anne Peters with me as you would
doubtless wish me to do. She is kind
enough to say that she sees no need for
me or my actions to be questioned but she
also sees that my appetite is not with
me and that I am capable of a larger
scope. I have had a visitation from
God. As I can only feel
hurt and dissatisfied I like to believe I
am with a deeper power which loves and
longs to give what we most desire. I am
grateful to you for so much liberty and
try to use it right but believe me I have
waited so long for a little to go on with that
I am hoping the wait will be very short. My
heart is full of hope and waiting for gladness
With kind regards yours faithfully
Follen Austin.

felt a loss of energy and rest every day. My back and neck pain me more than a little. I don't wish to consult a medical man but so my way to friends who would soon put me into a pleasant train of thought and sequence because of doing just what my heart prompts - which at present is not questioned - In a Harding house I should have change from routine and boredom in any case after a trial you should know how far wrong I am in thinking so. If you decide for me to stay at home I must consult a doctor and have some medicine - this morning I feel at the bottom of the shaft and quite run down. The two doctor names given to me to consult were of no use. They are 5th away for a change. Dr. Neville Williams who is mayor is nice and understands earthquakes. He is the one at Jamaica last year I see him about and like his face it is kind and sympathetic. With kind regards Yours faithfully
Polly Austin

93, Dragon Parade
Harrogate

January 18th 1908

(52)
Dear Dr. Price I have had this letter from Miss Perrell this morning which I enclose feeling sure you will give me a favourable answer next week. She and Alice Gray would answer for me all that you require to give me all I am pining for my own way with surely. We three made a happy trio in good work and good ways and never knew a word of discord in our social life. Miss Perrell proposed two or three times that we three should have a pleasant flat at the West End and share expenses as she thought the life in South Kensington too much of a strain on me but I would not leave

what I had undertaken in God's will.
As our incomes are now about the same
I dare say that before long she would pro-
pose our sharing expenses again in some
pleasant flat and then we should be
as sisters for she is born to be kind
to others and has the tact. You must
see that my friends are all that
is real and true and that I must
mean true or they would be nothing to
me nor their offers of friendship.
I have no low intention of annoying
any person as I have suffered annoy-
ance for so long but as an act of
justice I do intend to make my
income what it was when I gave
it to God with all my body and soul.
I have a good firm of lawyers in
London who advised me in the affairs
of my brother Cyrus whose belief in
me was sure and to whom I promised
sacredly I would have his will put
right which promise is still to be kept

when the time comes but not in a vulgar
way to annoy ~~the~~ but to put right what
has made so much wrong and so on that
I came true to both Robert after many years
where I would have been with him to help
to save his useful life. If it is not too late
I intend to keep my promise to him -
hopes of keeping others which are in-
solved. Miss Birrell is half a lawyer
and her advice is sound and with her
I should do no wrong thing but true and
just to all men alike because I have
waited with patience for my day -
I have spoken of my plans to those sisters
who have not the same strength of will
in a good and just cause. They know
I am right in what I require and
if they fail to answer as I can answer
them they must take the consequences.
You & D. Pierce in my mind are not
and try to do what is right as I do
my health is not so it was I am
feeling broken and without tone and
since my coming to Harrogate I have

Life will prove. I have no crooked ways of my
own and to pretend because of their ignorance
of my true way of thinking is abhorrent.
Miss Peters the elder is my friend. She was ill and
was removed out of my way. She was part of that
which was when my sister Cyrus suffered, who
began his mad course at Harrogate. Miss Annie
Peters is my opposite and part of what I have tried
to escape from but have been obliged to endure.
Curvature and weak spine I understand. The
patients I have met where given me to understand.
She is with me in understanding those I understand.
A Mrs Peters from Strand or Camford who has
had a goat as part of her family. Miss Peters
would tell you when we had the odour of the
animal for the new year. Can the god of nature
is partly a goat you know. I suspect the spirit.
Peter Pan I will not know. I prefer my London
friends and the way of truth I know which
does not require the "bit and bridle" I have
been made to know from false and unnecessary
placements.

I naturally thought that when you saw or heard
that my way of going was as good if not better than
those who had preceded me that you would allow me
to go my way to do better. I believe I have kept my
contract with you as I thought it only meant those
of my friends who would not run their "Albatross" ships
as sisters who are more worthy of restraint than me.

23 Dragon Parade

Harrogate

January 16: 1916

(57)

Dr. D. Pierce, Many thanks for your
long letter of this morning which I will
try to reply as truthfully and care fully
as I can. I believe my self that my patience
under adverse circumstances has been as
exemplary as most under the same trying
denial of one's life and way. Ten years with
out so much care and thought as you have
given to me in the last few months has made
me see myself as different from others.
I have always believed that Asylums were
for those mentally deranged or showing some
signs of irresponsibility. I do not know my
self to be nearly so weak and feeble minded
as the treatment I have had from those
who were supposed to be caring for my well
fare and health. If my sisters who com-
mitted me cannot see the right way to
release me by simply doing their duty as

they try & do it to those whom they have no claim to nor upon whom they have no claim that he must suffer for lack of thought of those for whom he have made ourselves responsible without a right care. I am sorry if I have disappointed you in thinking of and requiring the affection of old friends with whom I had more affinity in a God given way than with my own sisters and brothers and thus without any fault of my own or knowing why. But which has to me a thing to be thankful for. I have long needed more natural affection which I am capable of giving and taking as human nature is made for and to be deprived of all my natural impulses and ways of depending my self has been false and unnecessary my nature has suffered and now I am knowing myself as much less than when I came to York. If I have to be conscious of this loss and still exercise patience in a false cause I cannot see that my treatment is either necessary or compulsory. I say again are for those who cannot take care of themselves or those who wish to destroy themselves which I have never for one moment wished to do nor can I hold that spirit which

does but in contempt and loathing. My people have failed so long in their natural duty to me that it will be disagreeable to go back upon it which is partly my duty to make them do whatever you may think. Harrogate is a place full of my family's memory as I have been obliged to live so much among ghostly influences I should for my self have chosen a very bright way full of new experiences with those who understand the laws of good society and social brotherhood without thought of entering into the feeble minded and brightening the life of one who has not needed it but in her own way. I was ready and willing to come to Harrogate when Mrs. Riley's patient was brought to York Retreat and had what I understood and had suffered from. I am reminded of her every day and have had the odour of death and disaster under my nose every hour almost since the new year gave me a change. I want my own way to happiness and out of the way of those who think with lunatics and lunacy it is becoming a horror to me I am so tired in with what has gone before and reaping what the years at Barnwood and Knipsdown have sown - If I could sow my own seeds of bright common sense I could reap the same in the years to come as my

the conditions you as a Doctor would require,
to do ~~me~~ as you are in your position often
regarding of strangers. I don't ask it from
those less responsible than those who committed
me to the wrong place in the first instance
and gave me to the grave which I am
trying to escape for awhile.

I have had a bad cold for the last few days
and feel tormented in my general health.
My spirits are cheerful because I hope
for what I long for and trust I may get it
and have looked to being free at the end of
the month as a consequence of straight for-
ward going without what has clung to me
so long for want of so much freedom of my
own will and walking. Patience after a
time loses its virtue and an over ripe apple
falls from the tree and experience with
out exercise rots and the iron rusts for
want of use. I long to try my wisdom of
the last ten years school of sorrow and
make my own life and others glad and free.
With kind regards and hoping for a power-
ful answer to my common sense.

Yours faithfully
John Austin

I have nothing fantastic in my mind
and I am more common place in my de-
sires than formerly and to delay longer in
having my own affairs to interest me is to wait
until I am incapable of managing them
to my own satisfaction they are now over-
ripe. I have chosen my friends of twenty-
five years wear with ^{out} the small change
such as my relatives have shown and my
friends are all known to those sisters who
ignore me as far superior than they desire.
I am proud of their friendship and should
do all I know to retain it by careful acts and
upright conversation which are both put under
limacy law at present. If you have no means
of freeing me I want a law or lawyer who can
see an act of injustice which has from loss
great a charge that it is injuring others
by neglect and delay as well as shortening
my life by a false burden of misery -
The boarding house life would suit me as I
don't wish to know the affairs of strangers and
it would give me a change of atmosphere I so
very much need. My friends both in public
and private life are held in honor and have
all the stores of true friendship at heart -

Miss Eliza Burrell is sister to Mr. Augustine
Burrell the Chief Secretary for Ireland and
in P. for Bristol where my sister refuses to
allow me to enter because of ten years of false
accusation. Miss Burrell is first cousin
to Miss Alice Grey with whom I lived when my
mind was held among the makers of history
the two are my loving and true friends as
their renewed correspondence will prove and
are both capable of taking and giving me a
sister's part in life. Mr. Leonard Franklin is a
nephew of the Earl of Swathlands who would
show me hospitality as Leonard is a great
favorite in the family and with his wife
are to me the perfection of sincerely with truth.
My health is a great care of my own to keep
what I have got so I am quite ready to
relinquish those of the care of it who give it to
strangers to dispose of it as the way shows.
I am showing symptoms of dropsy or obesity
both to me horrible and abhorrent. My mother
began to be ill at Harrogate with Bright's disease
which lasted four years in horrible suffering through
which time I seldom if ever left her side. I am
like my mother I would choose less suffering -
If my people are allowed by law to refuse

me my liberty and you cannot give it to
me but can only lengthen my tether so speak
I want to ask the lawyers who gave my life
to be good for the dogs so long as my mind is
to do a Christian's part and my heart set
on doing it so that evil cannot prevail against
me but through the enemy law and the courts
I am obliged to know through restriction.
Will you kindly give my case to the Committee
at your next meeting on Tuesday next and ask
if you are not able to set me free so far as I
wish to go in trial as you allow those you do not
know so much about to leave your care for any
where. My way has been planned for years
and I have patiently held my self in readiness
to take it when reason and common sense
not to speak of justice opened the way. I am
not ashamed of ten years behavior under
the torture of a false position and account
that long to prove it for the sake of my own
sufferers who may be brought under the rod
of affliction from the same cause as myself
Thro' de zeal and deprived of proper means
to recover as I have been until my nature is
weakened from environment and denial.
I believe London would sink me in every way
and I believe my friends would answer all

I will ask for them to be my substitutes
there while I spend my lawful income.
I could afford to pay two guineas weekly
for my board and wish to do so, the more
I should spend on necessary clothing
suitable to my requirements and position
which I believe is a very good one when
I find my own circle and welcome.
I should like to go to London for the opening
of Parliament. I intend with Miss Birrell
to know all about such things and club
life as well. I have offered myself as an
apt pupil under her wing to do just
as I ought to have done before I lost
myself among the gods and goddesses.
I am very much on earth at present
and wanting many things added to my
wardrobe. If you will say that I may
go to Lancaster Gate London, on the 23rd
that is next Tuesday week. I would go to
Cecils to buy with care and thoughtfulness a
few things at Marshall's & Seligson's where my
mother of ten took me and they all could be booked
to my father-in-law Mr John W Ward of Denby who
would understand that my word is as good as his credit.
I only ask to spend my own and that sensibly with kind regards
Yours faithfully Alice Austin

23, Dragon Parade

40
H. Arrogati

Ans

January 14th. 1908

Dear T. Percie, I'm feeling quite
a long time since I left the care
of you and the world with all its
attractions seems much nearer
attainment. After another week
here with Miss Annie Peters I
should like to take wing to London
and satisfy myself with what
I have pined for the companion-
ship of dear friends. I really
cannot understand why I should
have had to wait so long before
I was trusted so far. There is
nothing abnormal that I can

think about much less desire.
and my requirements are very
ordinary and only those which
make life worth living, such care
and restraint as I have suffered
from seems now like an ugly dream.
I have a careful spirit with me,
I find spending money is not one
of my weaknesses but I wish very
much to buy for my self all that
I had before and before where I
was taken from. But I believe I
shall enjoy with greater zest
the good things I put away from
me as acts of self denial and
while enjoying them feel thankful
My friends in London write most
kindly. I enclose a letter from Mr.
Franklin who was always kind to
me with more advice which would
have been better if I had taken and

found my self in a comfortable home
instead of after so long having to ask what
to do as an old friend advise me to do.
Her letter is sound and agrees with my
way of thinking which leaves me free to
accept as much as they are kind enough
to offer. She is most particular regard-
ing her conveniences and always found
me the same. Miss Perrell has offered
me her chaperonage when required so
I have promised to take a maid like
herself when my means afford. To
think I might go to Lancaster
Gate as she proposes or shall I
take one of the places she sends as
Cheaper? The Commissioners when
called upon by my sister 20 years ago
secured for me an income of £200.
per annum for maintenance. I wish
to spend that amount and if my
people ^{of my} who require me to lay as an
inmate of a lunatic asylum instead
of doing as I require (to be at liberty of self)

23 Oregon Parade (14)
Harrogate
January 3rd 1908

Dear D. Purci, It seems some that
I ought to do a little more than just
walk out with Miss Peters and alone
and to-day I called to inquire about
horse back exercise which it was my
intention to take while at Scarborough
last year. To-day I have wondered if
a course of waters would be beneficial
my only desire in all being to regain
my elastic spirits and figure which
now I feel the loss of. Would you
advise me to see a doctor here and
take the waters as natural so to
speak, I prefer them at the Springs -
my kidneys are not doing their

work properly and I have I
believe had slightly swollen hands
and feet since Wednesday - My
pain which might be humbugs was
very acute yesterday in my right
side - to-day it is better but not quite
gone. My sleep is improved and
I like the loneliness of dressing
and descending to the ready break
fast. it is a pleasant home-like
feeling which suits me - I would go
to Dr. Neville Williams and consult
him if you think that is better than
riding but the latter I hope to have
when I go to stay with my friends &
to enjoy it with them.

I also am in need of a second pair
of boots and more money to buy a
few nice letters as I see them
my wardrobe is meagre and
should be added to as I require

to put it into travelling order. Of
course I am hoping you will obtain
the command of my money for me
as I have not the fear that I could
not spend it better than those who have
had charge of it for ten years and
now I feel quite past the time for
its return to me and old in waiting
for it if I may say so. Will you
in the meantime say that I shall
do when I want a few pounds next
week for the Sales which of course
are occasions when all sane women
have a very good time in the rush
for dresses etc. - I have restraint
and would only buy what I need.
My spirits are cheerful and hopeful
and my heart does not forget
to be grateful for what has been done
to help me so far. With kindest regards

I am yours faithfully
Polly Austin

(13)
AUSTIN FRIARS,

DEWSBURY.

5th Jan^y 1888

D. Bedford Pierce

Dear Sir,

Thanks for your
letter with enclosure
which I return. I am
sending a few pounds
to Miss Peters for Miss
Austin's use as you suggest.
I am afraid, however,
Miss Austin will never
be made to realise that

her Income will not
allow of unnecessary
Expenditure

Yours faithfully
J. W. Ward

And as I can trust in my self to
choose the best I hope to have much
brightness and many good things
in my life and those with whom I
kind myself. I wish it for these
kind women whose efforts so far
are with kind hearts and whose
way in life has been partly in a
way I have been taken they desire
me to give you their best wishes
for the new year and their
kindest regards to which I
will join mine

Yours faithfully
Pollicie Austin

(10)
23 Dragon Parade
Harrogate
New Years Day 1908

Dear J. Pierce many thanks for
your kind notes which came
this morning and for the change
you have helped me to take. I
have found the house most agree-
able and the nurse Peters all
that is kind and courteous. I
am feeling thankful for so
far into the new year. Harrogate
is full of memories which I
had no wish to recall. My visits
here were for sad results and
I should much have preferred

to take up the way I was going
when the break-down took me
to Cheltenham and back wards
way to where I find a spirit
has preceded me and left me
only memories of what I had
no pleasure in knowing.

The air is good and I feel sure
will trace me to persevere in
obtaining my own share before
long which I trust will be to
friends I have yearned to join
to satisfy my heart as well as
my mind with good things.

I think the month will be quite
as much as I shall require to
be strong enough to look about
for myself without a pre-arranger.

I have no intention to deceive any
person least of all those who are trying
to please me and make me happy
"Those who trust me educate me" - I
have withered for lack of trust and
faith in my promises which were
made with a true intention.

Mrs Peters feels she has a charge.
I wish you to tell her that it is not
necessary to let it weigh upon her.
If I feel there is the least cause
for anxiety I will write to you
at once but I have closed the door
of the past year with many and
much of what I did not need
to enlarge my ten years experi-
ence of one sort of things missing.
I intend to be quite independent
of that which gives worry where it
is not carefulness of the right sort

1060
3, Richmond Park Road,
Clifton,
Bristol.

Dec 31st

Dear Sir

I am in receipt
of yours of the 30th
and note the address
where Miss Austin
will be staying in
Harrgate. I hope

She will not rise
any doubt and
that the change
will prove beneficial
to her.

Yours truly
Annie Mardon

10244

AUSTIN FRIARS,

DEWSBURY.

29th Dec/07

L. Bedford Pierce

Dear Sir,

I am agreeable that Miss Austin shall go to Harrogate, on your recommendation, & trust the visit will be satisfactory. I feel that, naturally, her place is with her own relations, but unfortunately we cannot conveniently find a bed for her. My wife

will probably go over
to Harrogate & see her.

Yours faithfully

J. N. Ward.

arrive, I will go to the
Station to meet her.

My visit to York gave me
quite a happy Xmas. I
enjoyed seeing every body.

With Kind Regards

Yours sincerely

S. de P. Peters.

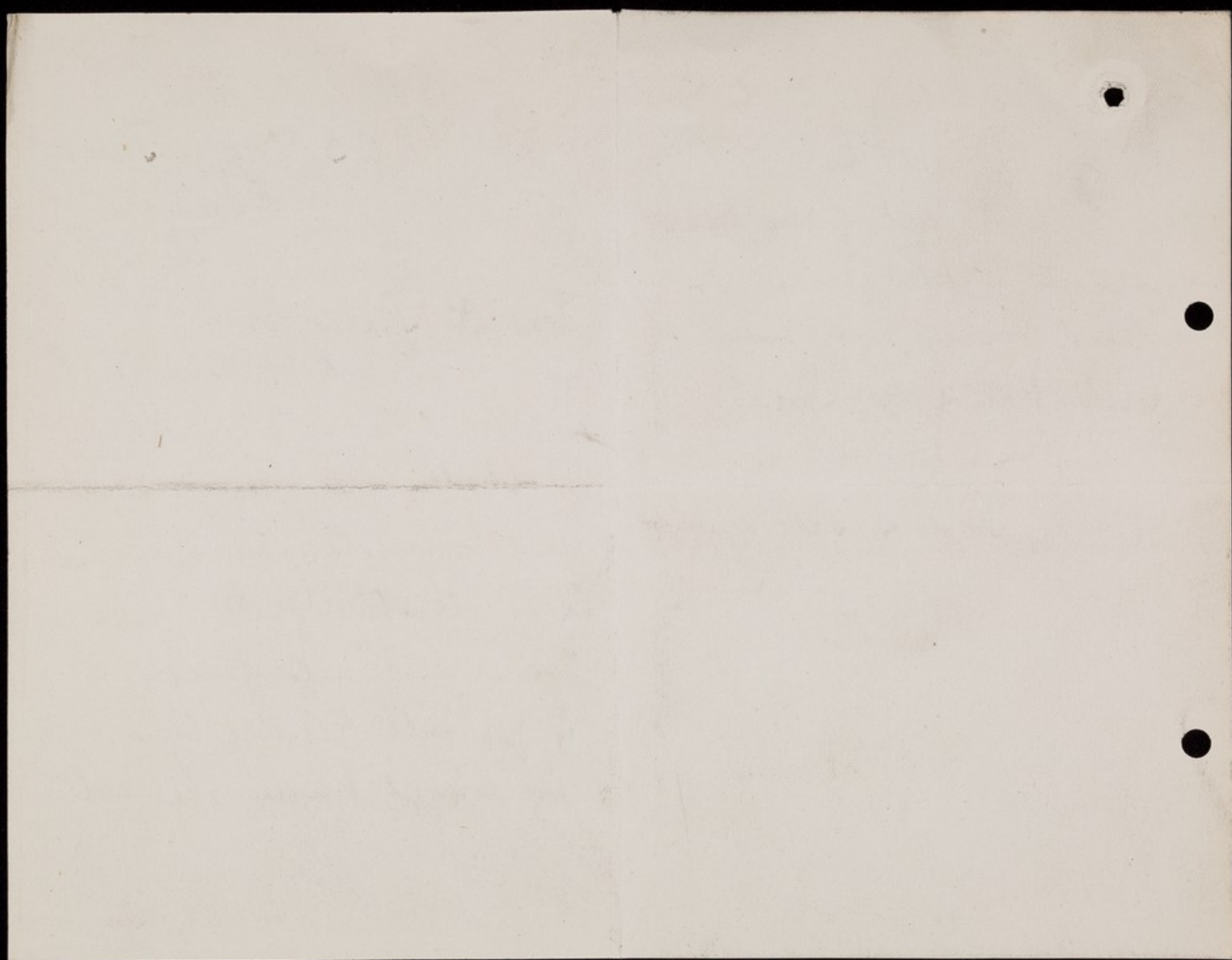
1039

23. Dragon Parade
Harrogate
Dec 29th/07.

Dear J. Pierce.

Thank you very much
for your note of this morning.
We shall be quite ready,
and very pleased to receive
Miss Austin on New Year's
Eve - as you propose.

If you will kindly send word
by which train she will



1088

AUSTIN FRIARS,

DEWSBURY.

11th Decr/07

Dear Sir

I thank you for
your letter & copy of corres-
pondence with M^{rs} E. J. Mardon.
I do not understand why
M^{rs} Mardon has such a
honor of Miss Austin
going to see her. The two
sisters at one time were
almost inseparable, & I
know that Miss Austin had
always a stronger affection
for Mrs Mardon than for

had to get help from my
wife & M^{rs} Mardon.

If some temporary home
satisfactory to you, can
be found the additional
cost will have to be met
somehow.

Yours faithfully

J. M. Ward

L^d
Bedford Pierce

my wife, so that I cannot
explain her reasons for
writing as she does, unless
it is that she & her husband
have been ^{quite} convinced from
the first that there was no
possible chance of improve-
ment & do not wish to think
there ^{can} be any ~~chance~~ ^{thing} different.
I am sorry I do not know
of a suitable place to
suggest. Miss ~~Scott~~ ^{Gray} was
mentioned before as being
willing to have Miss Austin
with regard to her finances.
The Annual Income for the
last 3 Years has been about
£140 & the Expenditure
about £190, so that I have

(1000)
3, Richmond Park Road,
Clifton,
Bristol.

Dec 9th

Dear Sir

If as you say
"that I need not be
anxious at all as
to my sister coming
to see me" I will
give my consent
to her absence on
trial "on the district

Written understanding
that wherever and
with whoever she
may be placed it
is rendered impracticable
for her to visit me
and that her own
parole in this matter
be first obtained.

The effect on my
health and the family

complications that
would ensue should
this promise be broken
would be most
serious.

Yours truly
Annie Ingham

989

3, Richmond Park Road,
Clifton,
Bristol.

✓ Dec 6th

Dear Sir

I am in receipt
of your letter of the
5th - and I must say
the plan of allowing
my sister to go away
for a month on trial
does not commend
itself to me, and I

must still withhold my
sanction. At any rate
if the Commissioners
insist upon it, it
must be with the
clear understanding
that my sister does
not come to me or
disturb my family
in any way as such
an event would prove
most disastrous

Yours truly
Anne Gordon

(832)
AUSTIN FRIARS,

DEWSBURY.

18th Oct, 1907

D. Pierce

Dear Sir,

I have today received
a letter from M^{rs} E. J. Mardon
Copy of which I enclose.

From the general tone of her
letter I gather that she is
not disposed to give Miss
Austin any chance to get
better and is quite satisfied
in her own mind that the
case is hopeless & that she

is not inclined to be guided
by your recommendations.
I am sorry she takes this
view of the case, & feel sure
if she could see Miss Austin
& have a talk with her & you,
she would alter her opinion.
However, as it appears to be
necessary to have M^{rs} Mardon's
consent before anything can be
done, matters will have to
remain as they are, unless you
can suggest something.

Yours faithfully

J W Ward

Cover

Oct. 17th 1907 832

In reply to your letter of 12th, if I thought that it would do Dolbe any real good to go & pay Miss Grey a visit I should not withhold my consent, but I feel convinced that we should have trouble with public at once if she were free from Asylum control, and I also feel quite sure that she would come directly. In a letter I had from her less than a month ago she then said that my house was the proper place for her to come to first, & then pay her visits

from here, always making this
her home. I have had several
letters from her of a threatening
nature, the last one, especially so.
Dr. pierce says in his letter to
me that the Fundamental mental
disorder has not disappeared,
but she has more self control &
when they allow her out alone
she generally gives them no trouble.

I don't see what control Dr.
Pierce can exercise over her when
she is away staying in the house
of a friend, but I quite understand
that she would still belong to the
Reheat. In short she would be a
Certificated Lunatic at large,
& there would be plenty of trouble

before they got her back again.

sister to have even less
liberty than you allow her.
I will write to M^{rs} Mardon
but I am afraid she is
prejudiced.

Yours faithfully,
J N Ward

AUSTIN FRIARS,

DEWSBURY.

(83)
10th Oct 1907

M^r Pierce,

Dear Sir,

I am much obliged
for your letter of yesterday
& regret to read that M^{rs}
Mardon is not agreeable for
Miss Austin to have a change
for a week or two. I am
rather astonished because
my wife wrote to her last
week & told her how much
improved we thought Miss
Austin was, & that we

believed the suggested holiday would be beneficial to her. If M^{rs} Mardon's sanction is necessary for such a short change I don't know what can be done not having had any experience in such matters. We would have Miss Austin with us but have not the necessary sleeping accommodation for her.

M^{rs} Mardon seems to be very much afraid of Miss Austin visiting her (which, I think, is unnecessary) & I gather from her letter that she would prefer her

I suppose it will be necessary to have Mr. Mardon's Consent as petitioner. I shall be glad to hear from you as to whether anything has been done in the matter, also whether you still think it is feasible in her interests, & if I should do anything in the matter.

Yours faithfully

J. M. Ward

AUSTIN FRIARS,

DEWSBURY.

795
9th Oct. 1907

D. Bedford Pierce,

Dear Sir

I was sorry you were away when my wife & I came over to York a fortnight ago, but we were very pleased to find that Miss Austin seemed to be much better & also looking much improved. I understood from W. Mackenzie that Miss

Grey had offered to take Miss Austin for a week or two in order to see whether it would be wise to give her more freedom. I gathered from our conversation that you were agreeable to the idea & I told Miss Austin that my wife & I were quite willing for her to go, as we thought she was quite capable of looking after herself & had altogether more control over her delusions.

783

3, Richmond Park Road,
Clifton.

Bristol
Oct 5th 1907

Dear Sir

I reply to your
letter of Oct 3rd,
Your letters I have
received lately
from my sister I
am satisfied with

Now that "the fundamental
mental disorder has
not disappeared" I am
also quite convinced
that the moment
my sister is free from
Asylum control we shall
have grave trouble
with her. She manifests
bitter hostility towards
me and I am sure would
visit me and perhaps

provoke a scandal.
On mature consideration
I regret that I must for
the present withhold my
consent. As I observe
by your letter she is
tricked out a good deal
alone I hope that sufficient
care is exercised so that
she does not take the
journey down here as
such an event would
be most deplorable
Yours truly
Minnie Gordon

that such a visit might
be arranged, if leave
were given.

Of course I should not
hold out any hope to
her, until I was sure
that I could arrange
things.

A few lines in reply
would be a real kindness.

Believe me,
Yours truly,
Oliver Birrell.

1 Oct. 1887.

Dear Sir.

I must apologize for
troubling you but I am
anxious about an old
friend of mine, Miss
Austin, who is now
under your charge.

She has lately written to
me after a silence of
10 years. Her letters
seem calm & reasonable.

(778)

11, SUTTON COURT,
CHISWICK, W.

I am so entirely in the cure?

dark as to the causes be there any subjects
of her malady that I likely to excite her
feel in need of some which must be
advised. It is possible avoided?

that former delusions have would it be suitable
more hold over her, for her to pay a visit
them these letters would of a week to an old
indicate.

acquaintance in the
May I assume in country?
writing that she is quite I think it is just possible

AUSTIN FRIARS,

DEWSBURY.

19th Sep^r 107

Dear Sir

I thank you for your letter & am glad to hear that Miss Austin is, at present rather better my wife & I do not think, however, that a visit for the day would be any good as Miss Austin would no doubt be anxious to go about & see some of

her former friends which
might upset her & cause
a lot of talk in the town.
My wife & I were thinking
of coming over to York
on Saturday afternoon,
probably, to see her

Yours faithfully

J. N. Ward

D. Bedford Pierce

(277)

AUSTIN FRIARS,

DEWSBURY,

8th April /07

Dear Sir

I have received
a letter from M^{rs} Mardon
(Miss P Austin's sister)
who agrees with my wife
that they must be guided
by your opinion as to the
advisability of an operation
on Miss Austin & consent
to it if you think it is
necessary & there is a

probability that the result
will be beneficial to her.

My wife was agreeable
surprised to find her
looking very much better
when she saw her a week
or two ago.

Yours faithfully

J. W. Ward

D^r. Pierce,

(243)

AUSTIN FRIARS,

DEWSBURY.

22nd Mch /07

D. Bedford Pierce

Dear Sir

I thank you for
your letter of yesterday & am
writing to M^{rs} E. Mardon
respecting the same. I will
communicate with you on
hearing from her.

Yours faithfully

J W Ward

AUSTIN, TEXAS

DECEMBER 1

AT HOME
2-3.30 P.M.
(WEDNESDAYS EXCEPTED)
TELEPHONE NO 10.

5. MONTELLIER TERRACE,
SCARBOROUGH.

Mon 20.07.

Dear Preece

I would suggest
£15.15.0 including the
anaesthetic; but am quite
willing to be guided by you.
The Opⁿ could be done at
Thurs only all night. ^{What} ~~all~~
I would want to feel quite
sure about would be the
surgical knowledge of the
Nurse as regards asepsis.
If your Nurses there are

well up in the details, facts
& well. If not I would
like to send out a Nurse
simply to prepare patients,
baths etc. etc & to help
at the Op^r. I am well
understand I am sure.

Respect with kind regards

Yours sincerely

Frank: Godfrey

I am sorry the X rays were
not available.

(226)

AUSTIN FRIARS,

DEWSEBURY.

18th Mch/07

D^r Bedford Pierce

Dear Sir

I thank you for
your letter of 16th & regret
to hear that Miss Austin
is not well & that it is
advisable she should have
an Operation. Of course in
such a matter we must be
guided by your opinion
as to whether it is necessary

I also whether the result
would be satisfactory to
her mentally. I shall
feel much obliged if you
would ask Dr. Godfrey
what his fee would be &
then I must communicate
with her sister to have her
consent ⁱⁿ to sharing the
Expense.

Yours faithfully

J. W. Ward

March 16, 1907

Dear Miss Austin,

Many thanks for your letter.

As you know we have been much concerned about your health for some time, and I have asked Sister to arrange with Dr. Godfrey to have an "X ray" examination made, to make the nature of the complaint quite clear.

You will understand that it is of the first importance to restore your health, and if we can successfully do this I am sure you will look at things very differently.

Yours very truly,

100

100

100

100

100

100

100

100

100

100

100

100

✓ N.K. / 150
AUSTIN FRIARS,

DEWSBURY.

21/2/07

Dr Pierce

Dear Sir

I have had a letter from Miss Austin at Grosvenor Hall asking to be allowed to have riding Exercise &c. I have written her that her Income will not allow of any additional

expense & that it is necessary
to be careful. I ~~am~~^{may} say that her
means are very limited, in fact
her sisters will have to pay for
her clothing. Do you think there
is any improvement in her
mental condition? Sometimes
I think her letters are more
rational & then others are quite
the opposite. Yours faithfully
J. R. Ward.

(113)
23. VICTORIA SQUARE,
CLIFTON,
BRISTOL.

Feb 7th

Dear Sir

Would you kindly
let me know how
my sister Miss Austin
is? She writes much
more rationally and
appears to be better
in herself. Might I
also ask you to be as
kind as to post her

letters to me under
cover in a plain envelope
and especially in the
case of Post Cards as
I had one from her
the other day.

I shall be very much
obliged if you will
kindly give this your
attention.

Yours truly
Annie Esdaile

1698

23, VICTORIA SQUARE,
CLIFTON,
BRISTOL.

Sept 17th

Dear Madam

I was pleased to
hear from you that
my sister Miss Austin
is happily settled. I
should be pleased to
hear from time to
time how she is getting
on. My brother in Law

address is
W. J. & W. Ward
Austin Harris
Newbury

he has entire charge
of my sister's monetary
affairs.

Yours truly
Annie Dwyer

23, VICTORIA SQUARE,
CLIFTON,
BRISTOL.

✓
659
My dear House
Mr. Penner
Lands End
Cornwall
Sept 3rd 1906

Dear Sir

Mr. Eric Bryan
has written to tell
me that my sister
Miss Austin came

23. VICTORIA SQUARE
GLYTON
Bristol

to your as I ably's friend
Last Friday. I should
like to know if she
is settling down
happily and comfortably
and if there is anything
extra that she requires
will you kindly
communicate with
Mr. Ward who has
in the control of her

monetary affairs.
When sending on any
of her letters to me
will you please send
them under cover and
sealed.

Yours Truly
Anne Erskine

P. P.

I shall be staying down
here until the end of
next week when I return
to Glyton (23. Victoria Square)

(633)

KINGSDOWN HOUSE,

BOX,

WILTS. Augt. 26. 1906

Dear Dr. Mackenzie

I will write you directly I
have Miss Austin's papers.
She only requires one
more but I will let you
know directly when I have
the Order etc. Many thanks
for your kindness in the
matter. You will find Miss
Austin a very nice woman
but full of delusions.

She is a beautiful worker
at fancy work & does
a great deal.

With kind regards.

Yours very truly
H. C. Mackay

(632)
**KINGSDOWN HOUSE,
BOX,**

WILTS. August 22. 1906

• Dear Pearce

I have not yet received
the order for Miss Austin's
removal, but I shall be
glad for her to be removed
by r. car as soon as it
arrives. If you be kind
• enough to send for her
if I write when I have the
papers? I ask this as I am
very hard pressed. being

full up & a number of acute
cases in. With kind regards,

Yours very truly

H. C. MacBryan

(588)

KINGSDOWN HOUSE,
BOX,
WILTS.

August 8. 1906

Dear Pierce

I mention to you the case
of lady here whom I met
possibly he transferred to you,
I am requested to find out
what your terms w^d be.
She has paid me 2^{/-} guineas
per week.

She suffers from Delusional
Insanity, is free from Epilepsy.
Suicidal tendencies, is clean
in habits & never violent.

She has fixed delusions & I
advise you, if you receive
her, to keep her from your
neat cases. Her brother
died at the Retreat & ^{one of} her
sisters live at Devonbury &
is a M^{rs} Ward whose husband
Mr. J. L. Ward is my patient's
Receiver &c. - Will you kindly
tell me if you could receive
the lady at what rate.
Her income has diminished
so if you could receive her

at a rate lower than 2½ g's
I think it w^d be appreciated.
May mention also that the
patient is very industrious
and works well at her
fancy work, at which she
is very skilful. With
kind regards.

Believe me,

Yours very truly
H. C. MacBryan

N.B.—The Secretary is instructed to obtain the necessary signatures to the accompanying form of guarantee before the care of any patient is undertaken by the Retreat.



YORK RETREAT HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.

In consideration of the Directors of the York Retreat Hospital for the Insane agreeing to receive Polly Austin of _____

as a patient in the said Hospital, I HEREBY UNDERTAKE

AND AGREE with Richard Thompson of Dringcliffe, The Mount, York the Treasurer of the said Hospital, to pay or cause to be paid, to the said Richard Thompson

as such Treasurer, or to the Treasurer for the time being of the said Hospital, all such Sum or Sums of Money as shall from time to time be or become due and payable for the Lodging, Maintenance, and care of the said patient in the said Hospital, or whilst under the charge of the Authorities of the said Hospital, and all such Sum or Sums of Money as shall be paid or disbursed by or on behalf of the said Institution for any articles of Wearing Apparel, or other necessities, or extras supplied to, or provided for the said Patient, or the repairing or mending and washing of the articles of Wearing Apparel of the said Patient, so long as the said Patient shall continue in the said Hospital, or be under the charge of the Authorities of the said Hospital, and also to pay or cause to be paid the expenses in respect of the Funeral of the said Patient, in case the said Patient shall die in the said Hospital, or whilst under the charge of the Authorities of the said Hospital. AND I FURTHER AGREE to pay Interest at the rate of five per cent. per annum on any accounts due from me as above, which shall not have been discharged within Twenty-eight days from the receipt of such account from the Treasurer, Secretary, or Clerk of the said Hospital. AND I ALSO UNDERTAKE AND AGREE, at my own expense, to remove the said Patient from the said Hospital within Fourteen days after receiving Notice in writing from the Treasurer, Secretary or Clerk for the time being of the said Hospital, requiring such removal.

WITNESS my hand the 8th day of October 19 06

Name J. H. Ward

Residence Austin Friars, Newbury

Occupation Bank Cashier

SIGNED by the said J. H. Ward

in the presence of

Witness's Signature

Address, and

Profession.

W. R. Spiking

Rydel Mount, Newbury

Banker's Clerk

N.B.—The charge for Board, Lodging and Medical care is payable quarterly, in advance. Disbursements by the Institution on behalf of patients, and other exceptional expenses, are charged in the following quarter's account. A residence of less than a month is charged as a month.

In the event of the death, removal, or discharge of a patient before the expiry of the quarter covered by the last payment, the surplus amount is returned by the Retreat.

