Sowden, John R

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Sowden

Church Hill 73
Crook R.S.O.
Co Durham
22/1/13

Dear Sir Rance

Enclosed please find two letters I received from an old friend of mine & an old pl. of yours

I had not had one word from him for 12 months until the enclosed reached me here when I was in Brecon.

Yours truly

Say I have not taken them seriously — Is there any truth in the assertion so far as you are concerned?

I have written him a very guarded letter

Sincerely hope there is not going to be the subject of prosecution litigation

I should be glad to hear your opinion

Kind regards

Yours very faithfully

L. B. Bronstein

Jan. 23, 1912

Dear Bernstein,

I fear we have not seen the end of this case. Sowden called to see me recently: he was certainly coherent and interesting, but he was excitable and exalted. He told me that his fiancee had heard rumours of his family history, and he asked me if there was any reason why he should not marry. I said that the question was a difficult one, and that the family history on his mother's side was undoubtedly bad. He said that some one in Bradford had been talking of his affairs, and I said I thought that was impossible, as it would be a breach of professional etiquette. I certainly did not say anything about taking legal proceedings, though I said that if any one was persistently spreading reports about him he might ask a solicitor to warn them. In fact I scarcely recognise any part of my conversation in his version of it. I would suggest that you reply politely saying that you have not discussed his affairs with any one in any improper way, and that you quite realise the requirements of professional etiquette and do not need to be reminded of them, or something of that kind. I do not think you need fear anything, whatever in the way of litigation. The poor chap was properly certified and legally under care, and if he is to take action it would be against those who signed the certificates or against me for keeping him.

If he troubles you again I should refer it to a solicitor, as the man is clever, and one wants to say as little as possible to him.

He produced a card, "The man in the Street": it certainly seems as if he is becoming bad again.

Yours very truly,

DR. Belford PIERCE
VERY IMORTANT!!

5/12/10 - 9 hrs.

Dear Dr. Pierce.

Can you grant me an interview of ten minutes now?

Please do, if at all possibly can. as I think I can clear up all difficulties that remain.

I have written a 24-page letter to my father (for the 9.20 hrs. boat), and

POST CARD

INLAND POSTAGE ½d.

FOREIGN POSTAGE 1d.

TO BE USED FOR WRITTEN OR PRINTED MATTER.

ONLY THE ADDRESS TO BE WRITTEN HERE.

as this explains better than anything the whole affair, I am exceedingly anxious to read it to you and to catch this (last) post. "Grant" and this one book" and I shall (I trust) "clear from trouble in" you. J. R. Sowden

P.S. sincerely yours

I, BLENHEIM ROAD,
BRADFORD.

DEC 16. 10

Dear Sir

I am sending by this post a parcel of books, repeats for my son which he wished me to send in a letter I had from him this afternoon

Yours very truly

John Sowden

Dr. Bedford Pierce.

BRADFORD
9 — PM
DEC 16 10

BRADFOR
9. —
DEC 16

DR. BEDFORD PIERCE.
THE RETREAT.
YORK.

G. M. Hart, Esq.
The Lodge
Heslington Road
York

ORA
9.45AM
FE 23
11
1

(Cornwall)

Common Room
Middle Temple,
E.C.
21/2/11

Dear Mr. Hart,

I have had no news of you since leaving York, and have no idea whether you are still in the clutches of the idiots who run (to their own great advantage)

attestation. If not, I will stir things up in my case. before long. so keep your spirits up. my boy. It's a long lane that has no turning.

I am daily picking up fresh nails for the coffin of Pierce's hollow reputation. and am preparing a spicy sauce in which to cook Mackenzie's goose! Cheer oh, & au revoir. Yours sincerely, J. R. Sowden

that infernal Retreat.

I wrote to your solicitor weeks ago, and have had no reply. I wrote the other day again, and am awaiting results.

Cheer up, my boy, and I'll have you out, in spite of 50 Pieces!

You have got to keep quiet and NOT talk to yourself. You and I know what fools most of the staff and both the doctors are, and as fools one must humour them.

Darley, tho' not possessed of anything like a fully developed sense of humour, is a good fellow. If you'll only take his advice and carry it out to the letter, you'll be out without my

Liberal Club,
Bradford.

21/1/11

Dear Sir.

Thanks for yours of the 18th, returning some of my letters.

I shall be glad if you will send the note-book of letters as soon as it is found.

Yours truly
J. R. Sowden

Bedford Peirce, Esq., M.D.

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I, BLENHEIM ROAD,
BRADFORD.

January 21. 11

Dear Sir

I should feel glad if you would send the letters that I sent to you from my son as well as all his letters and books which are left behind and not enclosed with his books.

I would also ask the favour of the Certificate by which my son was admitted to the Retreat as I do not like the idea of the existence of such a paper being kept and showing that my son was not in his right mind for a brief period.

The prompt step I took in his removal has turned out to the best possible advantage to him.

Yours very truly

John Lowden

Dr Bedford Pierce.

Liberal Club,
Bradford.

16/1/11

Dear Sir.

Thanks for yours of yesterday's date.

The letters, etc., which I referred in my letter of the 14th inst. were those addressed to various correspondents written by me during my detention at the Retreat. I am particularly anxious to recover at once a letter

written to Mr. (now Sir) G. Lawrence Gomme, containing matter relating to the National Liberal Club.

I may say that I have been unable to find among the books so kindly returned to me a note-book containing various private notes (copies of letters) made by me during my stay at the Retreat. I should be glad if you will authorise a search for this, so it will save me the trouble of re-writing a considerable number of letters.

I am

Yours truly

J. Russell Bowden

Bedford Row. City, W.C.

30

I, BLENHEIM ROAD,
BRADFORD.

14/1/11

Dear Sir,

I shall be glad if you will return my papers letters. etc, at your early convenience.

It is now ten days since I left the "Retreat" and the loss of my various papers has already put me to considerable inconvenience.

I am Yours truly
T. Russell Sowden

Bedford Place. Exp. W.D.

Jan. 31, 1911

Dear Mr. Sowden,

Absence from home has caused a delay in replying to your letter. I enclose with this the letters which Mr. Bernstein gave me and to which I suppose you refer.

With reference to the Certificates, these are the property of the Committee of the Retreat and are legal documents which cannot be parted with. You can, however, be quite easy in your mind with respect to them, as they are strictly confidential documents and cannot be seen by any unauthorised person. You will understand that all transactions in respect to patients here are entirely confidential and that unless you or your son raises the subject nothing will be known as to his stay here.

The note-book you refer to has not been found.

I am very pleased to hear that all is going on well.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

687

1, BLENHEIM ROAD,
BRADFORD.

DEC 12 · '10

Dear Sir I intend visiting my son Mr Russell Sowden on Wednesday instead of tomorrow, Tuesday because I understand from Mr Bernstein that you are at the Retreat on Wedy and I am very anxious to see you. I think it will be much better that I see you before seeing my son so that you will be able to guide me in my interview with him. We have received a long, very long letter this morning and the main line of it is that he wants to come home and rest which is of course impossible.

Yours very truly.

John Sowden

Dr. Bedford Pierce

P.S. I am writing Russell that I am coming on Wedy.

681

1, BLENHEIM ROAD,
BRADFORD.

Dec 10. '10

Dear Sirs

Thanks for kind letter
rec'd this morning which gives hope
for the future. I am also glad
that you have withdrawn the night
attendant partly because I think
my sons will be relieved and that
the expense will be reduced as it was
more than I could well afford.
My son has orders for his scrap books of
cuttings from the newspapers, principally
those by Rudkins on his cycling tours & nothing
also for the Saturday Daily news to cut from
& add to those he already has. Would you

allow him to have them. If so, I will bring them on Tuesday next when I purpose to visit him according to your remarks. I am very glad you think it will do him really no harm and it may possibly ease his mind after the interview. I could hardly understand how it was that his Aunt Russell had received a letter from him, but I thought it had been with your permission. I do hope that not many other letters are posted.

Yours very truly
John Lowder

Dr. Bedford Pierce
York

677

1, BLENHEIM ROAD,
BRADFORD.

Decr 7. 10

Dear Sir

I have sent off tonight per mid. luggage paid 1 box containing a selection of Russell's books as well as one pair of boots (new) & 1 pair of brown ones. 2 collars. a box of white ties together with 2 boxes of various kinds of tobacco which you will let him have at your discretion.

I have received this morning another long letter in a similar strain to the one I sent you yesterday which his mother is answering (in a way) by this same post.

I remain. dear Sir
yours truly
John Sowden

Dr. Bedford Pierce

See back for various addresses used.

Copied

Letter dated		Feb. 3. 1910		A
"	"	10	(Extracts)	B
"	"	Sept. 20	"	C
"	"	" 21	"	D
"	"	no date	(Monograms	E
"	"	Oct. 6	" (part)	F
"	"	Oct. 13	"	G
Wire	"	Nov. 12	"	H
P.C.	"	Oct. 22	"	I
"	"	" 26	"	J
"	"	" 28	"	K
Correspondence Card	"	Nov. 30	"	L

Read through by W.R.W. & H.C.H.

31 JAN 1911

31 JAN 1911

Various addresses

Strand Palace Hotel

Waldorf

Blue Boar Hotel, Cambridge

Letter written on Imperial Hotel paper (from "Dromore")

7 New St. ~~Cambridge~~ (Cambridge) (with "7" in it)

Colwyn Bay Hotel, Colwyn Bay

Grand Hotel, Llandudno

"Dromore", Colwyn Bay (printed heading)

Baldock ?

Hotel Metropole, Colwyn Bay

Common Room, Middle Temple

Smoker, (Chester!) paper headed Trinity Hall

"Cedarville", Llanrwst Rd., C. Bay

(B)

Extracts from letter

7 New Square, Camb.
10 Feb. 1910

Dear Mother,

. . . . . .

I shall also be glad if father will preserve "T.P.'s Weekly" and the Saturday "Daily News" as usual, until my return. If I could earn some money I would obtain a private secretary at 6d an hour, to do clerk work for me. The Specialist said that the 'flu is probably latent in my system always . . . . .

. . . . . .

I have not had any "continued lassitude" — too much energy, if anything. A telegraph clerk and I had spent several minutes in discovering the correct telegraphic address of the office I wanted, & found it to be the "Strand P.O. London" (this is the office nearest to the S.P. Hotel, and is in Southampton St.). The S.P.H. do not cash Cheques, but the manager kindly lent me £2 in exchange for an I.O.U., until I received father's money order.

. . . . . .

The reasons for my realisation of my own greatness – a fact which has long been obvious to the more intelligent of my intimate friends, and to many strangers of marked perspicuity – are too long to be set out here, nor is it meet that I should ~~too~~ enumerate them. You'll have to take it on trust until I see you, or, better still, wait until some proof, omen, earnest, or indication appears. Straws show which way the wind blows, and one straw was my infant power of apt quotation as in "Rose come, come away; why wring ye doubting hand, why sting delay?"

- - - - - - - -

(A)

Note by Dr. Peirce

"When this written had allowance of £300 a year".

Strand Palace Hotel
3 Feb. 1910

Dear Father

I have about thirty letters to write and am probably going to write six, so please excuse any apparently unnecessary brevity. The time is possibly not far distant when your son will be regarded as one of England's greatest men. I do not say this under the influence of intoxicating liquor, nor in any sense of levity, but merely because I believe it to be true. It would take too long to explain my reasons, so you must take it from one who knows - or thinks he knows. I have often told you in a somewhat jesting way that my way is always the best, and in future, to save trouble, I want you if you possibly can, to carry out my suggestions to the letter. When I sent the first wire asking for five pounds to be sent by wire to the "Strand Post Office", I

The only annoyance is spending so much money, but this has been put to very profitable uses, of which more next letter (Sunday).

Love to both

J. Russell S.

after nine hours of lawyers' twaddle that you would naturally forget that a local cheque is not payable at a London bank until credit has been voiced. Further, I see the hand of God in the whole business, for every misfortune and annoyance has led to some amazing benefit within a few hours. For example, I have become intimate with some remarkably good and brilliantly intellectual people, eg. S. Beach Chester - barrister, playwright and journalist, Mr. Gluckstein, manager of Lyons, Colonel Brown, an Indian officer, the latter's friend, Professor Hirst, the librarian of Middle Temple, a friend of Arnold Bennett, an English Brazilian, a Greek, and several others. Nothing could possibly be more satisfactory than the amazing chain of mishaps which kept me in London till today. The specialist, Dr. Cavendish Molson, is a splendid man, a kind of homeopathist, who says that influenza is latent in my system and is sending tabloids to counteract it. My relapse of influenza is now departing, and I am doing my best to keep quiet and get rid of it forever.

relied upon you to assume that I had a reason for doing so. Mind, I am not blaming you, for nothing could possibly be more satisfactory than the results that have occurred.
However, in order to prevent future mistakes, let me give you a list of a few of the results of your failure to carry out my request quite literally.

1. I have been obliged to spend £5.
2. Two of my best friends and myself have had an evening absolutely spoilt (or rather altered — we enjoyed it immensely).
3. I have been unable to return to Cambridge (which I was hope to do today).
4. I have had to cancel appointments with about twenty people, and have put others and myself been put to great inconvenience.
5. I have wasted a whole day, and had but little time for Law.
6. I have got the influenza again.

The above are but a few of the results. Now I don't blame you in the least. I know you would be so tired and worried

(C)

Colbourn's Private Hotel, Colwyn Bay (printed heading)
"Cedarville", Llanerch Rd, Col. Bay, 20/9/10

Dear Father

I have just thought of a good scheme to combine pleasure with business. I want to make some return to the Hackers for their repeated kindness and hospitality to me also to a Durbton friend who has been very kind to me in Cambridge & has invited me to stay at his home. The latter friend is going to the bar and his father is a wealthy solicitor — most valuable people from a struggling barrister's point of view. I therefore propose if you will forward the needful to ask one or both of these friends to spend a week with me here as your guests. If they cannot spare the time from work, we can bring books and call it a "reading party" doubtless with much benefit to us all, as we are taking the same exams. I cannot entertain these friends at home not only on account of mother's nervousness and the dirt in the house, but because they are both very clever men & would be bored to death in Bradford. Wot abaht it? If you haven't enough of the "needful" on hand get

some of mine from the Third Equitable a/c.
If it won't run to a mild expenditure like
this I had better chuck up the bar at once.
Love to both.

J. Russell S.

P. S. Thanks for your letter. Glad you are improving.
Will you be here on Friday? J.R.S.

(D)

Colbourn's Pte. Hotel, C.B., 21/9/10

Dear Father

Many thanks for your kind letter. Please excuse this paper (the back of a sheet of his father's letter & the back of an old envelope. I.S.H.). I am at a good orchestral concert (2d) and have no other here. I can quite understand your being a little "touchy" after your illness, but hardly sufficiently so to occasion the remarks on the other side. I had gone to the trouble of writing a long letter, thereby missing half of a good concert that I particularly wanted to hear, in order to try & persuade you to consider yourself a little and come here, and in order to make the request concerning my friends. I was therefore sorry that you should have so grossly misinterpreted my remarks. I know you have always been more than kind in providing me with money and pleasure. I, on the other hand, have always tried to keep expenses down as much as possible. I now think that it would have been much better for my Cambridge career if, like the Brooks, I had spent a little more in my first two years. It would probably have been cheaper in the end. However,

I made up for it in my fourth year – an advantage not enjoyed so frequently in Camb. as at Oxford. What I said about the bar was a jocular remark, which you with less than your usual sense of humour, appear to have taken seriously – as mother always does! At the same time, the remark was perfectly true as most humorous things are – such as mothers-in-law, servants, marriage, and the Irish. If one has not an assured income of £300 a year to start ~~with~~ on as a barrister, it is generally admitted to be hopeless. I have always had the

(G)

(A) Perforation made in Patients Office in filing letter.

Dromore, Colwyn Bay, Thursday 1(A)/10, 4 p.m.

Dear Father

Enclosed please find letter. Adventures continue. Pc. A.7 tells me of several Hall men who live here. The donkeyman is a poverty stricken gentleman, who will introduce me to an eccentric literary genius who lives here. The donkey-man's sister is married to the vicar of Llanstan, who is an unchristian & heartless creature whom I am going to bring to justice "by some means or other" (IOLANTHE).

6.35 p.m. Your wire to hand at 6.20 p.m. Glad you are coming - you must bring Mother. The equinoctial gales are in full force, so there is a fine sea & breeze equal to the best Blackpool breakers. Please bring a large trunk (the new one) with the following in :—

1. My green Norfolk coat (Brown's)
2. My billycock hat
3. My best black boots
4. My leather leggings
5. Brown paper parcel in my room containing note books

S. P. Hotel full – am trying a cheaper house –
the "Waldorf", E.C. J.R.S.

(J)

P.C. Waldorf Hotel, W.C. 26/10/10. Dear Father,
This is my head quarters till further notice.
I may be in Camb. next week – also in Oxford,
Shrewsbury, Gloucester, Birmingham, Edinboro',
M/c, Bfd., Leeds, Kent, Harrogate, Colwyn Bay,
& Corshalton. I am promised £2000 a year for
four hours' work a day & expect that at least.
Am seeing the "Morning Post" tomorrow & dining with
the "New Age" tomorrow & on Saturday. The Editor
lunched with me today & gave me pressing invitations
to write. Why on Earth don't you reply to my
queries occasionally? Shall be in Bfd. at the
first convenient cheap excursion – probably
next week – with wonderfully good news.
Love to both. J.R.S.
P.S. Can you stood any more? I think NOT! J.R.S.

Mrs. J. will have tea for you & mother at 3.30 & dinner at 6 of rice (weed with water & no sugar) salad, water cress, small joint, cheese & biscuits.

In haste for post

Russell of Borrowdale

— OCT. 13.10 — (on back of last sheet. H.C.H.)

(H)

Telegram, Nov. 12. 1910 (Handed in at Baldock)

Sowden, Blenheim Rd Bd.

More lucky coincidences met Chesterton invited to his home

Russell Union Society

(I)

P.C. Hotel Metropole, Colwyn Bay, 22/10/10

Dear Father & Mother, Thanks for parcel. Received it at 9.15 a.m. — first parcel post. Address till Monday: Temple; then C. U. Society, Camb. More startling coincidences half-hourly. Love to both J.R.S. P.S. Thanks for parcel & bike (to Camb.) & thanks for letter of intro. Have met a dozen new friends to-day.

6. All my G. K. C. books (bottom shelf - right-hand side, new bookcase).
7. All my Bernard Shaw's (3 or 4) green-grey covers - new bookcases or old green do.
8. Bottle of scent - my mantelpiece.
9. (If you could find it - in biscuit box or other receptacle bottom drawer new chest of drawers - list of members of Trin. Hall assn. (about 4" × 3") - not important.
10. Cat-skin rug.
11. Pear's ½ Cyclopoedia (bookcase).
12. Anything else that looks useful, such as photos., pipes, books, motor-gloves, biscuits, - biscuits (I have only 2d worth left); tripe; bank notes etc. etc.
13. Letters of introduction to all the "Upper Ten" in London & M/c.
14. (Stop press items):-
15. Mother.
16. A telephone.
17. A motor-car.

Will meet the 3.14 if possible. If not, out-porters for 6d per box, will show you the way - ½ mile

(K)

P.C. Waldorf, 28/10/10 3 p.m.

How absurd — the first thing I do is to advise you of my movements. How can I tell you before I know myself. My right hand knoweth not what my left hand doeth, for my ways are swift as the lightening sudden as sin. Good is a relative term — fire is a good servant but a bad master. News also depends on the point of view. Home soon. J.R.S.

Card with printed heading FROM J. RUSSELL SOWDEN, ~~(4, Blenheim Road, Bradford)~~

("The New Age"
68, Cursitor Street,
Chancery Lane, E.C.)

30/11/1910
The Lodge
Heslington Rd.
York

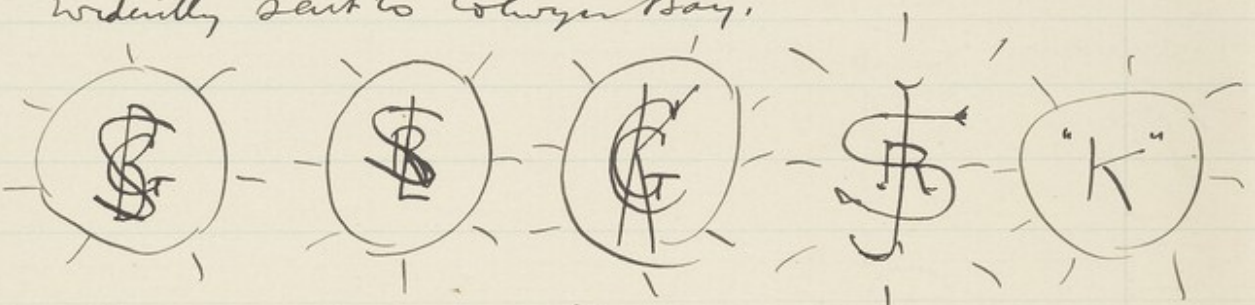
(L)

Dear Father

Unless you come and see me immediately, you will be the laughing-stock of the Town shortly. You have done some foolish things at times, but this absolutely "heads the poll"! "Dr." Bernstein told me, & Dr. Beetham agreed (while Dr. Zwich approved) that YOU were actually mad last Thursday. Is this so? If so, don't come, or they will keep you — tho' they prefer sane comic men (like me) I think. Love to MOTHER. J.R.S.

(E)

Monograms on a blank sheet of a letter from J.S. to J.R.S.; no date but "1 Blenheim Rd., Bradford, Wedy evng." Evidently sent to Colwyn Bay.



Shaw Stevenson Chesterton (Me) "Rutklos"

"The choice & master spirit" (just had a cup of tea) "of the age". – Shlas – "Julius Caesar". I am the Jennis (pl. Jenni or Jennises, acc. to meaning) of the NEW AGE! See attack on me this week & my scintillations next week

J. Russell S.

("Rutklos" is explained in another letter to be

(F)

"Dromore", West Parade, Colwyn Bay
6/10/10

Dear Father,

Do you think Uncle James, Mr. Pawson, James Hill, my friend Cotton (the millionaire), Ric Brook, or yourself would lend me £100 for a year @ 5% int., on the security of my unique collection of smoker's requisites? I want to set up as a journalist, so as to earn £10 a week as soon as possible, and, acting on the advice of Bernard Shaw and Arnold Bennett, I am determined to aim for the highest and do the thing in style. I am offered introductions to the Editors of all the best London & provincial papers, and shall first make myself known in the Press and then (when at the Temple for dinners, this month or next) call upon the Editors of the "Daily Mail", "Morning Post", "Nation", "New Age", "M/c Guardian", "Daily News", "Daily Telegraph" and a few others, such as the "Yorkshire Observer" (under new management) and the "Pall Mall Magazine", which I think I was told, pays its writers very well indeed. Such papers deserve to succeed, and merit the

Continued on paper headed "Grand Hotel Manchuria"

you might send a choice selection of your most expensive pictures, for I have met many prospective buyers including Aunt Eva's motoring brother-in-law, who is fond of Grange (The Grange) and wished he could have seen your pictures of the district. If you like, I will arrange an exhibition of your pictures in Llandudno, I to receive 10% of the sales after paying the incidental expenses. I am a great financier in embryo." Think it over!! Now suppose I try to reply to some of the points in your letter?

(11) – (14) on other sheet

(15) I also want (as I said above) my sketch-block labelled (in pilt) "Daily Notes" (in a bookcase) - buff, (in colour) but I can get another for 2ᵈ. The small tin trunk will be required in order to bring back the stocks of letters, telegrams, newspapers and books that arrive daily. If you don't come you will miss the chance of a lifetime. Byrne turned my friend La Touche and me out

find self expression. You needn't be alarmed at this note paper – they have a wonderful several-course lunch @ 2/-, and as we hadn't time yesterday for dinner or supper, we thought it as well to be prepared. It was well, for again there was no time for dinner. We have, however, supped well on bottled beer, cold steak (succulent and sweet) and tobacco. This you will, with your customary acumen, have already perceived to be a digression. I have a hundred items of extremely fascinating news – how the motor coach (6/-) broke down and we entertained the chauffeurs with advice on and gifts of tobacco and the passengers (including a Canny Scot) with our wild and witching humour – how we sailed for two hours this afternoon on a sea bluer than blue Danube with Sun and East wind and the Canny Scot of the day before, and how I enjoyed the sail immensely (contra-Swanage!) and smoked first a fair cigar and then numerous pipes of perfect peace on board. Before leaving the ship we had made many friends, so engaging is the charm of our manners.

If you are so foolish as to remain in Bradford

assistance of really great men such as G.K.C., G.B.S., Arnold Bennett, Mr. Barton and myself. Keep your eye on the "New Age", beginning with last weeks' number. The accompanying letter from me is, I trust, the beginning of a series of dialectical displays well worthy of the well known traditions of the "new age". I am advertising myself (à la Bernard Shaw) to some extent in Wales — De Quincey couldn't have done much better — so that I am saluted by and offered tobacco or matches by half the tram conductors, ~~best~~ head waiters, hall porters, hotel managers, visitors and residents in the place. It's wonderful how the world takes one at one's own estimation. This evening I have had four people in roars of laughter for 2 hours & 20 minutes merely at the superb serenity of my satire, the wondrous will o' the wisp wisdom of my wit, and the deep humanity of my humour. This by the way. I had a glass of ginger beer six hours ago (since when I have had no other) and I must (being, like Arnold Bennett, a true artist)

BEDFORD PIERCE, M.D.,
MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.

THE RETREAT,
YORK.

189

Copy.

The Lodge
Heslington Road
York.
30./11./10.

Dear Aunt Eva

Can you put me up for a day or two? Father is insane. (if three local doctors are telling the truth, which I for one don't happen to have all faith in the veracity of human beings [especially doctors, asylum attendants and "best friends"] at any rate father has treated me into an asylum! Can you come & see me & help to get me out? I shall be really dept. from.

Yrs. affly.

On the last day he was at Retreat told Mr Darley - said his father was an old idiot & he would be better out - but it is all the better for me & father & the Retreat the longer he stays - & much it had deceived he did not care if he stayed 10 years.

30./11./10

Dear Maisie

Don't do anything or believe any lies about me until you hear from me again. If you write above address finds me. I have been victimised by a set of circumstances adverse coincidences and have been thro terrible suffering

However I am quite well & shall see
her soon again.

Keep up your courage my brave darling.

I R S.

Mr Darley - was told by patient
when his father visited him - on one occasion.
"I take the old & idiot out of my sight or if
you don't I feel like breaking things up - the
clock - throwing the billiard balls thro' the
window or smashing furniture."

Another time he went round asking all
the attendants & patients as to if they considered
him a lunatic. He told Mr Darley that
most of them agreed that he was. Only one
man he had not asked & this was
Mr. Ashburner & he vowed as to him when he
came in. Darley heard him ask
Ashburner at dinner & Ashburner said he
considered he was. 'Now' he said 'I feel
everybody considers me a lunatic it is time
I stopped acting.

I, BLENHEIM ROAD,
BRADFORD.
JAN^{y} 11. '11

Dear Sir

I enclose cheque £4/6 just received, which please acknowledge.

You will be pleased to know that my son is improving nicely. So far, he has a Cambridge friend staying with him.

Yours very truly
John Sowden

Dr. Basil Peers
The Retreat. York.

TELEPHONE 138
BOOTHAM PARK,
YORK.

1 Dec 1910

Wm Pierce
No Sowden for past 50 years

(1) Margt Russell. wife of Draper Bradford
adm 1853. dis rel 1855

(2) Joseph Russell (no entry of residence)
adm 1857 – dis recov 1858

(3) Sarah Russell – of Bradford
adm 1858. removed as Pauper 1858

(4) Isabella Russell. d of a draper Bradford
adm 1861 – dis recov 1862

(5) Margt Russell (junior). d of draper Bradford
adm 1864 dis recov 1865

(1) delusional – (2) melancholia
(3) delusional
(4) & (5) mania.

Sg C K Mellmoth

TELEPHONE 150
BOOTHAM PARK
YORK

Peter Moffat Russell. = née Bowes.

draper in B'ford - came from Scotland when 18. fr Galashiels.

Peculiar - name moulded read 'Old Miss Tabs' -

dau. 1. Isabella - died cancer in York asylum. Single. adm Bootham 1861 dis Ric. 1862

2 Annie Bowes = John Bowden -

Insane after mals. which she caught from son. under care 12 mos

Never really recovered

3. Margaret - still under care Oldsley - also in York Asylum 1864.

4 Emma - nurse at London Hosp.

'Cracked' eccentric - lives in London. Single.

1. died Pulm Tuberculosis.

2 Paralysis ? Melancholia.

3 Jas. Buchanan Russell. living at Sandalmuir.

successful manufacturer Married 3 times.

1st wife died without issue 1 child still born

2 wife d. do child died infancy.

3 wife. Clara Norman. 2 children.

(1) Q. 14. Double moulded as ♂. 6 yrs. (2). 13 ♂. clever. sporting excitable.

Uncle in America unknown.

F.F. Sowden - d. before P. was born.

Very severe clever mechanic - little ambition. Farmer in B'ford.

F.M. Riley.

Pretty woman - farmers dau. for Sherstone.

F. John Sowden - successful man - an artist -

v. severe mill-owner - . Has peculiar facial spasm.

FB. only remembers - Wm Myles Sowden - a Yarn Merchant.

a successful man..

The Superman.

(J. R. S.)

THE NEW AGE.

38, CURSITOR STREET,
E.C.

Dear Doctor.

You promised faithfully to call in at NO. 18. You have not done so. If you deceive me again I shall go mad - like Bowman! E.B.S.

672

1, BLENHEIM ROAD,
BRADFORD.

Dec 6. 10

Dear Sir Thanks for your letter of the 4th inst with regard to Dr Pritchard seeing my son I may say that I don't think he has seen Dr P more than two or three times & I have incurred as much expence that I cannot see my way to having this extra expense just for a passing idea. Another reason is that Dr Beetham said it would be very awkward for him to have to send Dr Pritchard at present on account of pressure of work. Possibly if Russell was told this he would be reconciled.

I enclose long letter received to day written by his mother which I thought you

ought best. I have had a letter from his uncle also who states that his aunt has received a letter which has none of the flighty remarks and quite a normal tone.

In a day or so I will send a box of literature for my own use.

I found also amongst his things a large quantity of tobacco of many kinds. which you will see he has when you think he ought to have.

I and my wife are hoping that before long he will become quiet under your care.

Yours truly
John Sowden

D: Bedford Park

P.S. When required more of Russells linen boots & shoes can be sent.

Russell has taken a dislike to my letters for the present, perhaps if my wife wrote you will allow her letters to reach him unopened I enclose a sample of his handwriting for your guidance

Dec 3rd 1910

158

At Home 2 to 3
6 to 7
Telephone No. 2063.

CLIFTON END,
MANNINGHAM,
BRADFORD.

Dear Percy Pierce.

What about this Mrs Sanders?. He may be an entertaining person but he's a nuisance.

If it is desirable & Mr Sanders finds Postman Hall go & see him, but you must write me to that effect which Miss Cam be shown to Sanders' father.

I think the Postmen [illegible]

today at a very busy time to
thank a "friendly call". If
in Lawson you would willing
& do what is right to
Sunday, Abbas? inconvenient.
I have had a first call
for Sunday this morning —
Shall I write?

Have you got the papers?

Yours very truly
J Ruskin

Thank wishes to the Douglas's

660

1, BLENHEIM ROAD,
BRADFORD.
DEC 3. 10.

Dear Sir I am enclosing my son's fountain pen so that if you think proper you may let him have it.
I am writing almost every day to my son as I understood from Mr Bernstein that you had told him I might do so.
I assure you both on your account as well as my own I shall only write on ordinary matters and not in the slightest degree anything to thwart your treatment.
I also understood I might send some of his books. then I will address to yourself so that you can look them over & select if you desire. I am extremely pleased

to learn from Mr Bevan's that my son has been much quieter lately

Truman. dear Sir
yours sincerely
John Sowden.

Dr. Bedford Pearce
The Retreat.
York

Dr. Bedford Pierce,

The Retreat,

York.

NAT. TELEPHONE Nº 223.

Sowden

ROXBURGH DISTRICT ASYLUM,
MELROSE.
3 December 1910.

Dear Pierce,

I am afraid I cannot help you much with the family history. This Asylum was opened in 1872. The District Board had since 1867 (I believe) provided for the patients from the district (Roxburgh, Berwick & Selkirk) in Millholme Asylum, Musselburgh. Previously to 1867 some or all of the patients had been boarded in the same Asylum, which was then a private house under the proprietorship of a Dr. Stockwell (?). I have no record of the names or history of any patients prior to 1872, but I have all the names of those then transferred from Millholme & of those admitted afterwards. The name of Bowes does not appear in my registers. Three persons of the name of Russell are recorded:- Barbara Masson Russell, admitted 10 April 1875 & discharged 22 May 1875, recovered, from Hawick. William Russell, admitted 26 September 1881 & died 27 January 1882, from Melrose. Christina Ross or Russell, admitted 26 June 1908 & discharged 15 July 1909, recovered, from Chirnside (As her maiden name was Ross, she was of course not a Russell). None of these would appear to belong to the family in question. Private patients from this district, & probably parish ones also, may have been prior to 1857 sent to Morningside or any other Asylum, & I fear it would now be impossible to trace them.

I have long been hoping to pay you a visit & see all you have to show me, but I don't go much from home now and must look forward to the pleasure of meeting you again here.

With kind regards & hoping all things go well with you,

Yours sincerely D. Campbe Rowsell.

Dec. 6,1910

Dear Carlyle Johnson,

Very many thanks for your letter. It is pleasant to hear from you.

I am afraid I have troubled you to very little purpose. I did not know you asylum was opened so recently. Here where we have records dating from 1792 it is rather difficult to realise how "mushroom" other institutions are!

I do hope you will break through your disinclination to go much away from home. In the Spring I hope you will come and spend a quiet week-end with us and see something of the antiquities of York, and this archaic institution.

Ever yours truly,

Nov. 30, 1910

Dear Beetham,

Your patient Sowden is quite an interesting person. He has made a limerick up about myself in which "Pierce" rhymes with "tears" and "beers". He is highlyindignant at being detained and is threatening proceedings all round.

In view of the very bad family history one does not expect very much, but I should not be surprised if this state of excitement subsides after a time. It will then be very difficult to know what to do, but we need not anticipate trouble.

Miss Douglas has got on very fairly well at Throxenby and has really given very little trouble. There is no fundamental change.

Do you think it would be possible for her to spend Christmas with her relations even if she came back to us afterwards? What would seem to me to be most likely would be that she and a companion and her sister should go to some Hydropathic for Christmas. We should then see how Miss Douglas got on. It does not seem suitable for her to go back to Bradford, and this would seem a possible alternative.

With kind regards,

Yours very truly,

Nov. 30, 1910

Dear Sir,

I duly received the key, and the box has come this morning. As requested by Mr. Bernstein I send you by registered post two bunches of keys and a small pocket book and a few other papers. Such of these as you think Mr. Sowden might rightly have please return as he is irritated by having his things taken from him

So far we have had no serious difficulty in managing him. He considers he is unjustly detained and that there has been a serious mistake, and I think he would attempt to escape at the first opportunity. Otherwise the only difficulty that has occurred is his numerous wants and his constant desire to send telegrams and make appointments with people. We willexercise a close supervision over his correspondence.

The two Medical Certificates, the Magistrate's Order and the Petition should reach me if possible this week. In case you have not got them I send you a set of forms. May I ask you to read the marginal notes carefully so that there may be no mistakes which may cause subsequent trouble.

It will be quite suitable for you to write to Mr. Sowden yourself at any time, but I should recommend you not to give his address to other persons.

Yours very truly,

654

1, BLENHEIM ROAD,
BRADFORD.
NOV 29 - 1910.

Dear Sir

My dear Son J Russell Sowden was placed under your care yesterday and I am now living in hope that in the near future he may have recovered under your able management to be restored to us. I and my wife hope that he will soon realise the position he is in and quickly gain better health.

I send this morning by passenger train carriage paid 1 Trunk containing a selection of clothing &c. Others can follow when

required.

I enclose list of articles sent so as to lessen the trouble for your assistants.

I shall be pleased to hear at any time of any good news you may be pleased to tell us here

Yours very truly

John Sawden

W. Bedford Pusey
The Retreat. York.

P.S. I enclose key for trunk.

AND
6, PARK SQUARE,
LEEDS.
BY APPOINTMENT.
TUESDAY, FRIDAY } 1.30 TO 4 P.M.
TELEPHONE { YORK Nº112. LEEDS Nº391X.

THE RETREAT
YORK.

Nov. 29, 1910

Dear Dr. Hitchcock,

A patient named John Russell Sowden has arrived here in a mild state of mania. He is a Law student and has a degree, L.L.B.,from Cambridge. I am told that his mother, grandmother, and some aunts have been under care at Bootham Park. If this should be the case would you be so kind as to give me any additional particulars as to the family history that may be readily accessible and also the varieties of mental disorder from which they suffered. Some forms seem so much more hereditary than others. His mother's maiden name was Russell.

I have not heard again from the Glasgow people.

Yours very truly,

12 Ashley Avenue,
Lisburn Road,
Belfast.

June 10th 1910

My Dear Miss & Mrs

Dear Friend

Yours dated June 8th to my brother Henry Shemeld Northampton has been sent on to me and I proceed to Kemp Town as I promised to let you know as that your committee is paid the costs of our sisters case we are all Heartily Glad.

I regret her circumstances

are such that she cannot afford to pay a high rate and I think I understood from my brother that you had said that being a member of the Society of Friends the charges would be much reduced & we felt that we might leave the matter in your hands to do the best you could for her —

I could have helped some years ago but I have been obliged to retire from business — & moreover share a wife & daughter, constantly needing medical aid — & this year my daughter has had to undergo 2 operations which has exhausted my income for this year —

If you will kindly send me the account in your usual course I will give it attention & see that the amount is remitted promptly —

We feel it our duty to thank you for your kindness in interesting yourself in our sisters case & we feel sure that at Shrewsbury Hall

CHARLES LUPTON,
HON. TREASURER.

FRED J. BRAY,
GENERAL MANAGER.

The General Infirmary, at Leeds.

26/11/10

Dear Dr Pierce.

Enclosed please find authority from Mr T. Sowden which I think completely covers you under all circumstances

Kind regards

Yours Sincerely

I B Bruce Lee

I, BLENHEIM ROAD,
BRADFORD.

Nov 30. 10.

I hereby authorise Dr. Bedford Pierce to collect any articles found on my Son, John Russell Sawdon which I may require.

John Sawdon