

West Bank,

Nork.

1874: 1874.

My dear James

It was very pleasant
to get thy letter, now, long
ago! I hoped to have had
some more photos of thy
friends to send thee but
not having been success-
-ful in that, I thought
thou would like to see
the old places again,
^{all} both of which may
recall to thee sundry
amusing episodes in

+ What share have these new pictures before the alterations.

thy past juvenile history -
We are about having
some taken of our garden
& the house as it has
been any much altered
since thou knew it⁺ when
the views are finished
I shall like to send thee
some - & perhaps some day
thou may yet pay thy
English friends a visit, &
may look for a warm greeting
whenever the time comes.
I am afraid the wrong
likeness of Louie was sent

thee, the one I liked the least
thou I have not one to send
any better - The children
are much interested
in the papers (illustrated)
thou hast kindly sent -
many of the pictures ^{are} spirited
& good - Louie wishes me
to thank thee on her
behalf - we have her at
home just now in hoop
confit, & I suppose her brother
may soon begin - however
it is a good time to have it.
My aunts are much as usual
living in their own quiet way -
Aunt S. has borne the winter
well & Aunt C. is very bright
& as interested as ever in all
that goes on. The dear woman
will still persist in writing

+ letters from other they
are quite legible, at other
times a failure⁺ I have
tried to persuade her to
write with a pencil or style
but it is no use, so she
must just do the best she
can and her friends must
excuse her - it is a great pleasure
to her, you cannot find in
one's heart to discourage her,
she is so patient.

Our poor Cos. Jane Eliza is
in great trouble just now
having lost her Mother, Aunt
M. A. B. at the advanced age
of 82. J. E. married W^m Simpson
who used to keep the book seller's
shop in Down Street to whom I
dare say thou wilt remember;
she alters very little except
looking rather older, as I suppose

+
I am very glad that thou can make out most of what she writes.

We all do by this time. They live at Gainford, a pretty little village 8 miles from Darlington. We have good acct^s from Thomas (Sarah Jane's brother) they are living now in the neighborhood of London, & have I think 7 children - very nice little things. J. J. Burth is still at Malton - her husband Thomas B. is delicate, not in any business - they have 3. I hope I may get likenesses of some of them to send thee sometime.

John Ford grows very feeble but still gets to meeting & sometimes speaks - he is still very bright. The dear old people at Oschaldwick are wonderful - still coming to meeting very regularly again, & J. Allis is just as warmly

interested in his friends as
ever, and wrote a capital
paper for the last "Friends
Examiner" on "Watertown"; it
was written in bed ^{at the} ~~at~~
^{close of} his 86th year - it really is a won-
-derful production for a man
of his age.

Thy history of thy daily work
shocked me very much.
I have no unity with young
men wearing themselves out
so fast! - so I hope to hear
thou art taking more
care of thyself when thou
writes next - & art feeling
strong again. I hope the
other members of your family
are in usual health - has
thy brother Joseph kept better?

I enclose a carte of my youngest
boy Willie, a most wild mischief
of which the photo gives us idea
we cannot imagine how he
has kept such a solemn face, &
unlike himself - he is just 9
years old - how time does
fly! Thou enquires
after the Priestmans of New-
Castle - I know nothing of
them for we have had no
tidings of them for years I
believe.

Aunt wishes me to give thee
her dear love, she has been
intending to write to thee
for some time, but various
things have prevented her.
James says it is never worth
while to trouble thyself about

butterflies - I am sure thou
has enough to be after -
he only meant that if at
any time thou should
hear of any opportunity thou
would remember him - he
has a wonderful collection
won from various parts - &
among the finest are some
collected by Wallace from
the Malay Archipelago - and
some great beauties also from
Equador, sent by their Orchid
collector - of course it is very
exciting to the boys to see the
opening of fresh arrivals - Horrid
reptiles also occasionally arrive!
Now really must not add
more - and remain with
dear love in which I am
united thy affec^t friend
M. J. Backhouse.

Ans 8/6/77

West Bank,
Berk.

24/xi:76.

My dear James

We were all very much pleased to hear of thy successful examination - it must have been very encouraging to thee & from that it is our hope thou hast been taking plenty of rest, for I have no doubt thou worked very hard.

This Autumn has been very damp & dreary here, & a great deal of sickness has consequently prevailed.

From our dear Aunts
are both poorly with cold.
Aunt E. has been in bed
for 10 or 12 days with an
attack of congestion of the
lung & a deal of cough - but
I am glad to say she seems
recovering nicely & I hope
will soon be up again.

In looking back upon the
last few weeks, I cannot
but see that she has not
been up to her usual mark
an illness she had some
weeks ago seemed to tell upon
her a good deal - and
she is now so blind that
I believe she cannot see

much beyond the bright fire;
so that I fear her writing power
maybe pretty much at an
end. Still it is a comfort &
very teaching to see how
like she makes of it, I think
she is quite used to being
blind - & takes everything
so patiently, under the full
persuasion that "all is
ordered well for her".

Aunt S. has also a deal of
cold on her chest, but is
able to be about.

I think we are much as usual.
My husband is in some
way stronger than he was,
& has been taken lately,
to going out to Brookings
& such like social gathering
- something quite fresh for
him, - but he enjoys it &

I think it does him good -
we have only Lonic at home
now, so we feel a very re-
duced little family - the
2 boys are at Frotham
school, coming home to
spend 7th day afternoons,
& occasionally of course at
other times - but thou
can well imagine the
effect of the absence of
all boy life upon us -
it was highly depressing
(if I may use such a term)
upon me & took a long
time to get accustomed to
the oppressive solitude!
Lonic is going on with sundry
studies at home, & attending
some astronomical lectures
at the Museum, which in-
terest her much - . . . Lectures

+ about a year now, so that it
is very difficult to know which
to attend to.
I have not been interested
to hear that A. M. Priestman
has been in
the west of the continent
and has been into lodgings near
St. Paul, so as to be near
his wife & children. I had written Pray,
that he had been declining for
some time. They have now
left St. Paul & are living
in the neighborhood of Bristol
I do not see much of them
but they were engaged a good
deal & they seemed pretty well.
Our aged cousin Mary Allis
is living but very feeble;
she is feeling the
her aged companion
W. P.'s mother
has lived for the last

few months at Orkaldwick, &
died about a fortnight ago, at
the age of 91 - it was very interesting
to visit the two old people,
so seldom you see such a light-
& both so bright.

A few weeks ago we visited our
relations in the north - among
the rest Thomas & Ellen, who
are settled at Beckenham
near London - he was very
much interested in seeing
the history of thy exant -
which we showed him & told
me to give his love when I met
He has 6 of the sweetest little
children that I ever saw,
so beautifully trained - they
are charming.

We have been expecting
a visit from our much-loved
B. & Jane Eliza, but had to part

them off on account of Aunt's
illness - they are much as
usual - J.C. just like her old
self - very busy just now
with painting on tiles, which
she enjoys & expects to turn to
some account - her village
life suits her well I think
in its freedom & country style.

What changes thou wouldst
see if thou couldst drop in
upon us! & we should
very likely hardly recog-
nize thee. I enclose
some photos which Jane Eliza
sent me for thy benefit, with
her dear love & the hope that
thou wouldst send her thine
in return.

There has been a very interesting
Temperance Conference at Leeds
about a fortnight ago, for the 5

northern I. Vis. The thing was
Saml. Brownly's concern, & he
hopes to be able to have them
throughout England, comprising
all the I. Vis. - so stirring up
his friends & endeavouring to rouse
them to greater zeal in the good
cause & if possible persuade
more to the "Clean Landed"
in the matter themselves. It
was very pleasant to see him
so well & active at the age of
44. A great deal of sentiment
was expressed & some interesting
essays read, & I hope good might
result from it. I wonder if you
are doing much in this way
in your land - perhaps, indeed
I trust you are not so utterly
enslaved by the cursed drink
as is poor England, where the
wither misery caused by it is so
appalling! But really I must
stop - after mentioning that our dear
Aunt's are both much better & are

I have just had a call from Dr. A. Williams, who

