

Holdgate Is no. 24. 1862

My dear James

I do not at all remember how long, a period has elapsed since I last wrote to thee, & as time slips on it probably may be longer than I thought, however I feel inclined to write by this mail. I believe the last letter we received from thee was addressed to my nephew James, it was very interesting to us to hear of your social meetings, they seem to be likely to be very useful to you & I would encourage thee in thy efforts in this matter, tho' it may some times seem rather hard work with all thy other occupations, yet I do believe the advantage that will accrue from the habit of putting thy thoughts on paper, & thus arranging thy ideas, will counterbalance the little self-denial that may have to be exercised. & it is only in youth that this habit can be acquired, when the mind gets occupied in after years with other things, & the brain has lost its early susceptibility, it is much harder work.

The Scripture Reading Meetings that have been held ^{in York} here once a fortnight

have now been suspended for the
summer months, they have been in
general well attended, I'm sorry take
a lively interest in them, indeed they
seem to have been seasons of much
instruction, my dear Brother has attended
them regularly when at home, I have only
occasionally been there, I find the distance
rather precludes my getting, especially
if I have been in the City during the
early part of the day. My Brother is very
kindly engaged with the Memoirs of the
dear Father, & I think he quite enjoys re-
tracing their steps in their long wander-
ings - I should I glory have been here a few
days, arranging about hindering it, they
have given up the idea of getting the
work out by yearly Meetings, it
could not be done without great hurry
& an effort that would be very undesi-
rable, & as they have got the names of the
friends wishing for copies from all the
Monthly Meetings, it is not so material,
I hope you will think the likeness
a good one, we have not yet seen one
in a finished state, but, the one William
Willet sent for my Brother's approval,
certainly recalls the dear Father very ac-
cidentally to my mind, it is engraved from
one of the photographs then sent -

We have pretty good accounts of my
dear Sister, the mild winter we have

had has suited her, tho' she has been able
to get but little out, Sarah James was here
at our last Quarterly Meeting, & Thomas
Shenk last Sunday with us, he is now
on the lookout for a business, as he has
capital it seems as tho' he would not be
satisfied to remain merely as a clerk in
the Bank much longer, but it is a glad
time with most business men this hour,
the deplorable American war causes
a sad stagnation, it is a sad affair, &
seems as tho' it would entirely blight
the prosperity of that once favoured country,
surely on both sides they are reaping the
fruit of their upholding Slavery - There
is a strong feeling in this country that
the North & the South can never again
unite, if this be the case it would seem
the wisest path for them to come to some
terms, & separate, but it seems a hard
problem as to what will be done, &
very sad to hear of the loss of life, &
misery that none follows, spreading its
dead effects over many lands -

The time for the Exhibition now draw
very near, this day week, I suppose
it will take place - The death of the
Prince Consort seems to have thrown
a shade over it, tho' it is said efforts are
making to give as brilliant an opening
as before. The Queen continues to live
well in private, & the papers state
that she intends to go to Balmoral about
the time of the Exhibition opening -

Friends here seem much as usual, what
changes would have taken place since
their last! our Meeting has considerably
increased, on a Friday evening it
seems as tho' the house were nearly full,
besides a larger number of members
we have more attenders. We are greatly
favour'd in preaching the Gospel fully &
freely preached among us; the children
of the schools are frequently address'd, &
surely if we do not all profit, it will be
our own fault. John Ford is just going to
attend the Yearly Meeting in Dublin and
afterwards to visit the schools of Friends
in that land he expects W^m Tanner will
accompany him. Cousin G^o Williams
& Isaac Brown of the Flounders have
nearly completed a visit to the meeting
in Lancashire last Meeting, it has taken
them a long time as they have mostly
gone on the sabbaths. I am glad to say Samy
Williams is much better, the word can
walk to meeting & I think is quite
hopeful that she will be able to get
about like other people. They frequently
inquire after thee, I wished me to give
thee love when I wrote. When I was
at Newark about a month ago, John
Watson made many inquiries about
thee, & hoped I would not forget to send
a message of love from him.

We have much miss'd our Friends
B & Deborah, but hope to see their daughter

comes to York, it will be a means of bring-
ing her Parents voice, Joseph Kountze
is busily engaged getting his house pre-
pared, it is very pleasant to think of
their being under the same roof as
mother there, & a great comfort to her to
look to this arrangement. Reed Schools
are getting on comfortably, both quite
well, & still likely to be so. Solomon
Thompson has not been very well lately,
but has not had such good health since
the accident, he went with my sail, I
should think nearly two years ago, the
wreck & shock produced concussion of the
brain, which laid him by for some time
& will probably be some time before
he gets over it. Thomas & Mary Allen
are well, their daughter Eliza Pringle
better than some times, she is far from
strong, tho' looking so stout.

My Nephew James is at present at
home alone, his wife & children
being at Isaac Roberts, but expected
home tomorrow, their little girl has
got to an interesting age, she is a nice
looking child, very like her mother,
her little brother is just walking
alone, he is a strong healthy looking
child, very unlike the feeble little
pellow he was when a few months old.

25th We had a most summer like
day, vegetation making rapid pro-
gress after the rain yesterday - I
have been with some of our friends
to the Nurseries - my nephew Jas -
has been making an underground
passage for *Hydnora phyllaris* & as
it is rooted over with sheet glass, &
when the ferns are well grown
will probably be a very pretty
place, it is only just finished,
but still the ferns that have
been in a short time are mostly
thriving - I must not add more
at present than dear Louisa
which my Brother writes, ever
believe me thy very aff friend
Eliza Southworth

The last likeness I sent thee was
very unsatisfactory, so I send one
and think better -