

(Script)

CUS417/4.26

Fred Johnson to Sir William Osler.

8 Theatre Street,  
Norwich.

27th Nov. 1912.

Dear Sir,

I could not very well reply to your letter of the 22nd before, as I had a heavy lot of proofs to look over and they were urgent.

I have to-day been to the Museum and looked at the two editions of 1642 and 1643 and the MSS. There are two copies there of the 1642 edition which is the one you would wish used? I collated half a dozen proofs or so of this 1642 edn. with the 1643 one, so as to be able to form some idea of the time it would take and so far as I can judge it would take about a week (working continuously) to do one vol. and as there are three to do, one might say, roughly, a month.

But it would not be possible for me to work at it continuously. I might be able to give three, or at times four days a week to it - but on Saturdays the whole of my days is taken up with official work for the city, in the Castle Muniment room. I am now in charge of their records and so could have the books and MSS. in the Muniment room all the week - a distinct advantage, as the authorities would hesitate to allow them out of the Museum.

I reckon that from the time it is likely to take that it would cost £9 or £10; but it seems to me that the fairest way would be for me to say that at any rate, it should not exceed, say £10, and if it takes me less time than I anticipate, I would charge less in proportion. It is quite possible, as one proceeds, that one may find whole pages similar and thus lessen the work - but it is impossible to do more than guess at the time likely to be occupied. Then there is the question as to whether you are in immediate need of it being put in hand, as I expect to be away for about 15 days at Christmas, and before Christmas I could not do a great deal at it - after Christmas I could get on faster. Then you may have some particular plan upon which you would like me to work, which might involve more time - the plan I had proposed in my own mind was to call the 4 separate copies, 1.2.3.4. Then to collate 1 with 2, 1 with 3 and 1 with 4 - keeping one as a basis and to take each copy and work thro' it straight and not attempt to collate all four at one time. All this is of course tentative and I only refer to it for our mutual help - You may decide not to place the work in my hands at all, but if you should so honour me, I would like a definite plan decided upon. I have never done collating of several MSS. previously, altho' I have collated many hundreds of transcripts with originals and proofs, but I do not see that I should experience any difficulty in the work and the MSS are such that it would not be advisable, I think, to ask just anyone to read, as they might make errors. The writing presents one difficulty to me

I enclose a paper showing how I have imagined you wish the work done - so as to have all four versions before me.

The Castle is only open 10 to 4 and I should have to take an hour off at midday - for lunch and rest for my eyes. I have no wish to make an unreasonable charge, but I can earn 2/6 an hour at my genealogical work and I have reckoned that as a fair sum to charge for this - if the number of hours works out less

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than I anticipate, you shall only be charged with the actual  
number occupied.

Yours truly,  
Fred Johnson.