

Mr. Abraham

Beald the

Whitehaven

Jan<sup>y</sup> 2<sup>d</sup>  
Mr. Richardson



Dear Abraham

Mr. Church of the Infirmary  
Newcastle (who is a friend of mine and  
has done me many kind services) wants  
an Engraving of the Earl of Housdale similar  
to the one in the News Room at Whitehaven  
and as it is a Subscription Print and  
difficult to get except when the Earl's  
friends abound I offered my services  
to hunt one out - Will you be kind  
enough to make Enquiry and if possible  
find one out, and let me know the  
Price at which it can be had - I  
hope you occasionally send me and  
very acceptable, and I promise to  
return all the emanations of my brain



as they may occasionally be transferred from  
Cotton or Steel to Paper - I am in daily  
expectation of a large print of a M. heighton  
who is senior Surgeon of the Newcastle Inf<sup>y</sup>  
which will make me - I would have  
written you long ago, but for the best  
possible reason I had nothing to say -

I am full of business as need be. Most  
of my latter pictures have been half lengths  
at 15 guineas. I commenced a group  
of four figures for Wm Dixon in  
about a fortnight and have made my  
arrangements to visit Newcastle again  
for I expect a long season in May -

The wife is barren and hearty, and so am I  
I in addition to being fat - a fat man  
to be wondered at in a person so habitually  
fidelity and great temper - L. D. Downman

that tho he did not call upon <sup>me</sup> last week  
I should nevertheless have been glad to  
see him if he had

Yrs truly  
J. B. Arncliffe

Dear A -

So it appears that your preachment  
about the harbour has not been without effect.  
I wish to God they may pull it down, it  
will be a job for the masons at this dull  
time of year -

When shall we have another fishing  
tour let me know when you think of having  
me & I will join you - I was right in  
prophesying that L. M. would be first man  
When it is convenient I shall be glad to hear  
from you - You gave a tolerably large extract  
from the Fishery Act. Yours truly - Ben Simpson



*[Faint, mostly illegible handwriting on the left page, likely bleed-through from the reverse side.]*

etc  
I am

Mr. Robt. Abraham  
Deputy office  
Witchamere



Carlisle 3 Aug 1836

My dear Abraham

I returned from Edinburgh last Friday. I would have written sooner, & more lengthily (of course <sup>in</sup> proportion <sup>more</sup> tiresome) but I had a slight return of my old friend, which, - with whatever truth, - I attributed to the stopping almost consequent on writing. I shall however give you a full & particular account, the first opportunity I have of sending a packet free of expense.

By advice, I saw both Allison & Abercrombie, the former of whom said he agreed without almost all your recommendations except, - the readiness, if I may so express it, <sup>with</sup> which you would apply the lancet, in the event of an expected return of the disease. He said he was afraid we would induce a worse disease. - They both (the two doctors) recommended a farinaceous diet, I was much pleased with them both, particularly Allison, who is in my opinion a very clever fellow, although he & I rather differed in our opinions. He leans evidently to the fear that consumption may be in waiting, now I think there are no



symptoms about me which indicate any thing of the kind - Perhaps their cautions were for the purpose of making me take care.

I enclose the opinions of the two scores & also one of the pieces of music, published by P. M. Leed Esq. whom I saw & he desired to be kindly remembered to you. He had not a copy of your song left. "It was, (I maybe) an unco favourite & went off verum fast!"

I bought two copies of the music for which I paid 24s. that is 12s. for each piece.

I only send you <sup>copy</sup> one, which if it is as much as you care about will suit me, as well, for I intend (if you don't want it) to send a musical young friend a present of the other.

I called twice at Mr. Andrews square & was told that the 1st account was all my eye, the person having failed & paid 2/3 in the pound & that the other was ~~but just in~~ not due, however I left the accounts & said

I would call next day / this was the 1st call / next day, I called as per promise, & Smith was not in & he had left no order, for the bill to be paid, - so I was snuffy & enquired how often it was requisite for people to call for 7 1/2 (I think that was the amt. / in London) a lot of more such stuff - & I durst not call again for fear of being kicked out of the shop, a proceeding which I should not of half liked, now, whatever have done once.

I thank you again for your kind invite to your domicile & must again beg to decline it at present - You will see I am overworn to gany south - Tell me what you think of the order - I wish to do as I am bid, but there are many inconveniences attending leaving home which make one quail at the bare idea - I am my dear Abraham  
Yours truly - Benj. Simpson



The following, is a copy as nearly as I can give it  
of what Dr. Allison said to me. —

He said that he agreed with my friend Dr. Abraham that  
in the event of being threatened with another attack, he  
would recommend Bleeches to the anus. But he thought too  
much bleeding would be dangerous, he thought it a good sign  
my getting so fast better after my attacks, and that my  
symptoms were generally good. But he would not say positively  
that tubercles were not formed on the lungs, he said no one could  
tell, — he said that there was a dead kind of sound on the right  
side of the chest, which might be caused by some of the blood  
being effused in the lung, if so, in a short time it would get  
absorbed. He said that in cold weather when the thermometer  
is below  $45^{\circ}$  I ought to confine myself to the house; that my  
exercise should be frequent in warm weather and taken  
on horseback; — to be careful to keep my feet dry and to  
keep clear of colds. The being able <sup>to keep</sup> clear of colds was  
one reason why he objected to much bleeding as by that I should  
get so much reduced as to take colds very readily and <sup>perhaps</sup> bring  
on a more dangerous disease. He recommended milk diet and  
abstinence from spirits and fermented liquors. He did not think  
it good to reduce too far, there was more danger to be apprehended  
from that, perhaps, than the contrary cause. He would recom-  
mend, if I felt in about six weeks as well as I do at present, —  
a change of air, & a change to a warmer climate say to  
Devonshire, Jersey, or Madeira. He thought the use of some  
of the chalybeate waters might be useful.



Carlisle 15 April 1835

Dear Abraham,

You will get this parcel (inclosed in which is a knot of the best gut I could get) through Mr. Jonah Fallowfield. - Thompson has just told me he will send it to him cost free. -

You have had good sport, - my eye! Eleven dozen is no joke, - I think the fly which you have sent me, very well dressed indeed. - I have just compared it with some which I have by me, dressed by Kirkbridge I think it equal to them in every respect, - it is too small for Eden though it would do for Caldew. I do not think that many fish have been caught here yet, at least I have heard of few. -

I should have sent the gut sooner had I thought you were in immediate need of it. - Ross thinks he cannot spare time for a few days fishing, probably the prospect of a rising



family may deter him - I wish he was wedded  
for he is evidently getting most consumedly.

It is <sup>to</sup> day that Brougham has had the  
offer of <sup>being</sup> Chancellor made to him and that he has  
refused it, if he has refused it, the real reason  
<sup>of the refusal</sup> will be, because of the ill usage which he has  
received from the whigs - If Brougham is guilty of  
plotting against the Grey administration, he is a  
most shamefully ill used man, ~~at any rate~~ it had  
appeared to me very clear this long time, that the  
whigs were preparing to cast him overboard - at  
all the public dinners if he was mentioned  
at all, it was at the tail of the feast, - but no  
matter, the whigs by such conduct will only  
ensure to themselves a more speedy overthrow

I am dear A

Yours truly

Ben Simpson



Carlisle Sept. 21. 1835.

Dear Abraham

Many thanks for your kind offer of bed board, & many apologies for my not writing an answer to your kind letter sooner; but at present, I must decline accepting your hospitality; I cannot spare time & besides I am not sure that it would do me good - I shall have to be at Keswick next week if I find myself well enough to go - indeed if the weather is favorable & I am anything like I am sure to be there, tho' at present neither augur too well the weather is damned bad & yesterday I was very unwell, but I feel better to day & I hope I shall continue so. - My reason for mentioning Keswick was that if you wished for a walk over the hills to reduce your fair dimensions <sup>(the ship)</sup> it might form a bit of an excuse for a start - Keswick is no treat to you so I leave it to yourself altogether - I shall be there I hope on Wednesday & Thursday

I hope the ink to tell you that Mrs. Blomms fits a friend of mine the other day, that if he was not the post  
Hanger he soon would make the post again - what  
says he "will you make the Owen Hanger, the man who only  
license a reformer when reform was fashionable - who stood  
about when I bought the bottle in 1820, when I was about

Mr. Wm. Abraham  
New York office  
New York

asking the gentlemen to the post without my hat - Mr. Wm.  
Mr. Green in Mr. Murray or Mr. Thompson Hanger & come -  
they are such men - how to make - old times & this morning  
that I will tell you, I never will have anything more to do with  
I should as well get of hand - I will be Hanger or nothing  
this is very much worth it -



You want or did want a Teal brake - when you write, which do this week, let me know & I can get you, I daresay as many as you like -

I say, who amongst us will make the best Mayor - My own opinion is in favour of G. Mounsey tho' I think John Dixon will be elected - but if there is a chance we will give them a brush in favour of G. Mounsey - John Dixon has declined to attend the dinner to be given to O. Connell he says he has "not got that far yet" Sr. Ferguson I believe intends to be there - G. Mounsey is from home.

Sept. 26 - Dan will not dine with us as you divined, it is said that he passed through Carlisle about one O'clock to day - Tom Carrick Sheffield told me awhile ago they saw him -

I will not be at Teswick until Wednesday the 7<sup>th</sup> - I am much better, indeed except a little weak almost well -

I was rather glad G. Mounsey was from home when the Don dinner was talked about for he would have bolted also, and by being off the ground he saved his bacon - There seems to be a ~~rising~~ growing desire for George to be Mayor, tho' I still think I'd will get it.

Mr. Hope continues very poorly James is hearty I never saw him look half so well, he says he never was so healthy - I hope you are hear and on the 7<sup>th</sup> I shall have the pleasure of seeing you & in the meantime believe

Yours truly

Ben Simpson

I shall have a gig & will meet you wherever you wish - I daresay I cannot defer writing any longer so will be obliged to post it, as Tomisons package does not go this week -



~~I wish you would put a little interesting~~  
The weather here is of general evening from middle  
the month which will be about 57° - shows us  
the sun at 2 o'clock yesterday 78 1/2.

Mr. Robt. Abraham,  
Derata office  
Whitehaven.



The sun is almost seen, it has been particularly  
bright within the last 6 years, so certainly says the  
I hope I shall continue to improve & have the  
pleasure of seeing you in the Spring. Should write

Torquay 24 Oct. 1836.

My dear Abraham,  
I sent you a pretty full  
account of the sayings of such folks. He  
says I may be glad, if I am as well as at  
present when the Spring arrives, so if all  
goes tolerably right, I will pay you a  
visit in May or June next.

I have scarcely any thing to add to what  
I stated in my last letter, save that  
after a pleasant sail we arrived here all  
right. Torquay is as pretty a spot as  
any body could wish to live in, but one  
is not after all at home.

Forbes, who is a fine, kind, clever fellow



has recommended an issue on my breast,  
and a Mr Cartwright a surgeon here is  
now in hands with it.

The broad leaved myrtle grows here as  
high as 10 or 12 ft. & many of them are  
now in flower, it is certainly a well  
sheltered place, but it is a very dear  
one. We pay 33/ a week for 2 bed  
rooms <sup>one small</sup> & a sitting room about 15 ft square.  
Besides I believe we will have to pay  
something for Linen &c. - Every thing  
is dearer here than in Carisle, except  
whitefish & they are the only article  
of animal food, save once a week a  
little chicken, which I am allowed to eat.

I feel better & stronger, than when I  
left Chichester & I was then a good deal

better, than when I left home.

I have got the Herald regularly since I went.  
Has Roy got to Carisle yet. Carrick  
did a sketch of me when in Carisle.

Address your future communications to me to the  
Care of Miss Ford - New Quay.

You had a very prudent article on the new poor  
Law amendment act. It would be very difficult to bring  
any thing <sup>criminal</sup> against <sup>it</sup> if giving a decisive opinion on the  
merits of the bill is a crime.

The natives fish a little with bait for whiting  
they call the codlings. I should like to have a  
at them, but it is too cold & I must be careful,  
for Forbes says I am in a dangerous way.

Ralph leaves this place for Manchester, thence  
for home on Tuesday next. It will probably be a  
week or ten days from the date of this letter  
before you receive it. I could not find in my  
heart to make you pay postage. Now since I  
am put to my shifts I find the Cash <sup>very</sup> short  
& am getting considerate. Write however, & I  
beg you will excuse this scroll for I have a  
lame side, (I always had a weak one) from the issue.  
I am Yours truly - Benj Simpson



*[Faint, mostly illegible handwriting on the left page, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side.]*

*I think well*

Dear Abraham

Carters 26 Dec: 1735

I have <sup>had</sup> the trolle which I now send you lying by me for a week, but I suppose the want of it is no disappointment to you, as the weather has been so stormy, that if any trout have been got within these last 5 or 6 days, they must have lost their gumpshoon - I have been trolled up for a week but the dence a cast can I get, however I shall if possible flog the petteril or the Calder on Monday as lustily as "Duke of Wellington" could, in his anxiety for continuing corporeal punishment, wish - After all, there is a good deal of sense amongst the preservation & shuffle of the sake; as our army is constituted I verily believe the Cat's nine tails necessary, - but then why have it so constituted? So much for that, now for the fishing trolle; *[illegible]*



Says he cannot make a finer line than the one I send you, to be at all useful, & to be able to make it so fine, it has to be partly <sup>made of</sup> silk & partly hair.

There are 36 yds. of it at 1/2 per yd. = 4/6  
silk — 6 } 5/3  
Tinsel — 3 }

"Whitki" I will get from you when <sup>next</sup> we meet —  
Parker was here last Saturday, he says he cannot spare a day or two this year —

I shall have much pleasure in meeting you in about a month or 5 wks. at such place <sup>wherever</sup> that may be, as we shall have good fishing  
write & mention time & place & if well ~~that~~  
I will be with you

There was an immense steuple chase near  
Cathwaite yesterday so "immense" that it is reported  
one or two of the hounds or have been killed.

My informant says he saw two persons lying  
by the side of the road (devil a soul near them)  
apparently dead.

I suppose & every body else supposes the same, that  
what you mean by "that flattened gilt wire" is  
~~tinsel~~, if you dont mean it, I dont know what  
you mean.

If you are in want of any more tacket or  
if that which I now send you is not the thing,  
let me know, & I will have great pleasure  
in either getting you some more, or getting that  
which I have sent you changed.

Robt. is in Manchester, & of his wife with  
her ~~money~~ at Stockton, it is likely to  
come by I — & bring her home with him.

Carriek is hearty & really improves most won-  
derfully in his profession, he got 15 Guineas  
(say he has got even twenty) with perfect ease  
the whelp will do now & I am glad of it.

I am glad to hear you are well, I delight  
at the tattering you give the Harbour spoilers,  
tho' by last weeks report they had been pretty sweet  
upon you notwithstanding their snarling  
yours truly  
Thos. Snipson



Friday 30 May /36

My dear Abraham

I owe you an apology for not writing in answer to your letters of Tuesday Wednesday week; & accept of my thanks for your kind queries after my health, which is materially improved - indeed for this day or two I am as well as I could wish -

I am thinking of spending 3 or 4 days either at Port Carlisle or Skumburness, perhaps you will join me there. you can easily pop down in the steamer, - by which will be the best place for you, & when, the best time, & I shall make both, to suit you - Thompson will probably be with me, if the place is Skumburness - you had it appears only from fishing

Mr Wm. Abraham  
Huntly Office  
Huntly



I expected nothing else, there can be no good  
fishes caught <sup>P</sup> this weather, - now at Skumburung  
I am told we can have capital sailing  
Probably ~~to~~ some fishing tho' perhaps  
not very good, but it is a quiet spot &  
that is something. - I wish you would say  
you will be there, \* I am sure it  
will be better to be there than in the  
close streets of W. Haven during this  
hot weather.

I see you have recd. Walker & Hartley's  
reports, - the Herring business will be  
in a sad form.

I am dear A. -

Yours truly  
Ben Simpson