

GIGGLESWICK,

SETTLE,

3RD MAY, 1909.

DEAR SIR OR MADAM,

MECHANICS' HALL, SETTLE.

I enclose herewith formal notice of a Special General Meeting of the Proprietors of the above Hall.

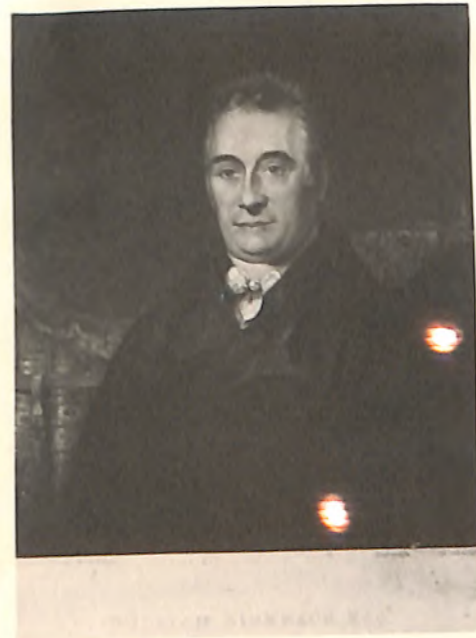
The Managers of the Company have received an offer of £450 for the buildings of the Mechanics' Hall, the property of the Proprietors, all the costs of the Proprietors in conveying and transferring the same to be borne by the purchaser. This offer has been considered by the Managers to be advantageous to the Shareholders, taking into account the present value of the shares and other matters.

You are only entitled to vote by proxy if you are resident six miles or upwards from the town of Settle, or if you are a lady holding shares. If, therefore, you are in favour of accepting the offer, but do not intend to be present at the Meeting, and are so entitled to vote, will you kindly sign and return to me the enclosed form of proxy, so that all available votes may be cast in favour of the resolution, as it is imperative by the Trust Deed that not less than the holders of two-thirds of the shares must be present either by themselves or by proxy at the two successive Special General Meetings expressly called to consider the question. Shareholders, not being ladies, cannot vote by proxy if they reside within the radius, and must, therefore, attend the Meeting if they wish to vote for the resolution.

Proprietors are entitled to one vote for each share up to five shares, and one vote for every five shares above the first five held by them.

Yours obediently,

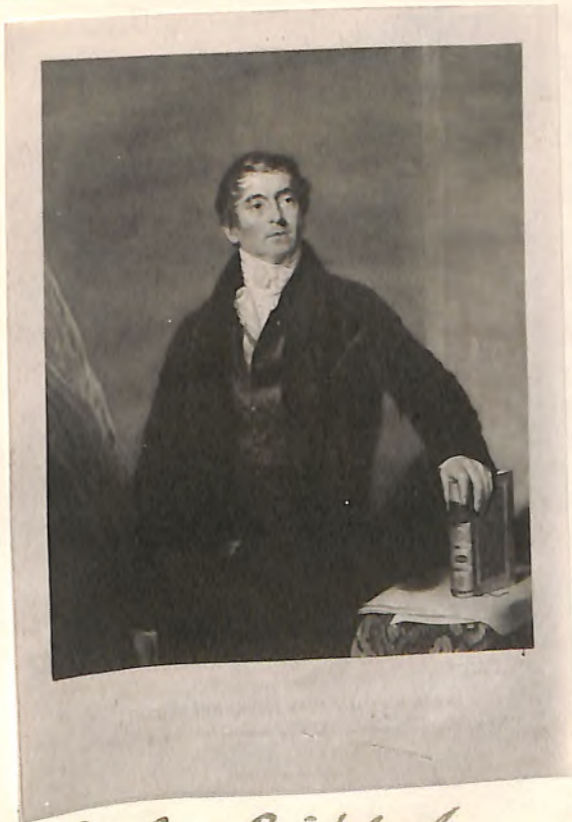
W. J. ROBINSON,
SECRETARY.



MR. WILLIAM BIRKBECK.

Died Jan. 6th, 1838, at Linton, aged 66. William Birkbeck, esq., banker of Settle. He was the first member of the Society of Friends who qualified as a justice of the peace. He was courteous and gentle in his transactions with all, faithful in the discharge of his duties, and persevering almost to a proverb. His interest in the success of Mechanics' Institutes was scarcely less than that of his brother, Dr. Birkbeck, of London.

(Gentleman's Magazine).



Dr. Geo. Birkbeck.

SETTLE, December 20th. 1791.

THE Committee form'd for the purpose of disseminating the Knowledge of the abuses existing in the AFRICAN SLAVE-TRADE, respectfully recommend the attentive perusal of the annex'd Abstract of the Evidence, deliver'd before the House of Commons on this important Subject, which contains a Series of incontrovertible Facts so fully illustrating and explaining the iniquitous Mode of pursuing and inhuman Tendency of this dreadful species of Commerce, that they can't doubt its effect upon every candid and disinterested Mind, and they therefore decline communicating their own Sentiments thereon, further than that, in Justification of their present Institution, they think it right to declare, that they are too deeply impressed with the Necessity of every Exertion, towards removing so striking an Evil from amongst us, to remain silent Spectators of the efforts of their Fellow Citizens, who have been long engaged in this glorious Cause of Justice and Humanity, and have been consequently induced to endeavour to co-operate in their small Measures with them, in their laudable Attempts to effect so desirable and necessary a Purpose.

If it is possible that the Effects of former Prejudices, should leave a doubt upon the Minds of any Person, who may have perused this Treatise, that the SLAVE-TRADE ought to exist, or if, on the other Hand, the knowledge of the Truths comprized therein, should raise such an honest Indignation against its continued existence, as to inspire a wish to communicate with this Committee on the Occasion, they will be happy on the one Hand, to be instrumental in removing these mistaken Prejudices, and on the other, to receive the Advice and Assistance of their Neighbours and Friends, who are requested to address their Observations by Line, or personally to apply to W. BIRKBECK, in *Settle*.

N. B. It is desired that this Abstract may be returned with all convenient Expedition, to the Person who brought it, as the Committee wishes it to Circulate as quickly as possible through the Country.



DR. LETTSOM.

JOHN COAKLEY LETTSOM was one of twins, born in December 1741, in Van Dyke Island, near Tortola, within the verge of the tropics. At the age of six years he was sent to England for his education, and was placed under the protection of Mr. Fothergill, a preacher in the Society of Friends, and brother to the celebrated Dr. John Fothergill. By the former, young Lettsom was entrusted to the care of Dr. Sutcliff, to whom he was apprenticed. He was afterwards entered at St. Thomas's hospital, where he acquired those habits of industry, by which the whole of his after life was strongly characterized. He remained there two years, and then returned to his native country, in order to take possession of the property, which had fallen to him by the death of his father and elder brother. This property, however, consisted of very little, besides a number of slaves; whom, to his eternal honour, he immediately emancipated.

Having thus left himself in a manner destitute, he settled for a short time at Tortola as a medical practitioner, and soon established a very respectable practice. He afterwards visited the universities of Edinburgh and Leyden; at the latter, he took the degree of M.D. From Leyden he again came to London, where he commenced practice under the patronage of Dr. Fothergill. The same year, he was admitted a licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians; the year following, elected F.S.A. and, the year after, F.R.S. and very soon afterwards F.L.S.

His popularity, as a friend to science, and still more so as a philanthropist, now rapidly advanced. His subsequent marriage with a very amiable lady, who brought him a considerable fortune, gave him additional opportunities of exercising those feelings of benevolence towards his fellow creatures in distress, which had long glowed in his bosom. His correspondence with persons of the first eminence, both in Europe and America, extended to almost every name there recorded in the annals of science, literature, and benevolence. Dr. Lettsom belonged to almost every literary institution in the world: he was a member of no less than sixteen universities: a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh; and of nearly every other medical society in England and America. He was treasurer and one of the founders of the Royal Humane Society, and vice-president of the London Philosophical Society; in which honourable chair he was succeeded by his Royal Highness the Duke of Suffolk.

Of the writings of Dr. Lettsom it is impossible here to give even a list; they embrace a variety of interesting topics, every one of them tending to promote the great ends of science or universal benevolence. His last little work was a pamphlet, entitled "Recollections of Dr. Rush." It was written but a few weeks prior to his death. The manuscript was put into the hands of the writer of this, with a modest request, that he might not be "permitted to disgrace himself as an author in his old age." Those who have read the pamphlet will not need to be informed that Dr. Lettsom's powers had suffered nothing by age. This worthy and celebrated physician died after a short illness, on Wednesday, the 1st of November 1815; and his remains were interred in the Friends' burial ground, Little Coleman-street, Bunhill-row. The real value of Dr. Lettsom's character was known only to those who had constant opportunities of viewing him both in public and private life. Though, by artful and designing individuals, he was brought into considerable pecuniary embarrassments towards the close of his days; yet the general tenor of his life was governed by the principles of honour and integrity. The "Life and Correspondence of Dr. Lettsom" have been published in three 8vo vols. by Mr. Pettigrew, who has done ample justice to the numerous merits of his friend.

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amending a substitute

Burial Ground, Roscoe Street, Bunhill Row for wheaten bread.

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An Eighteenth Century Apothecary.

A fascinating story of the rise to fame of an apprentice to an eighteenth century *Settle* apothecary, who later had the distinction of being one of the founders of the Medical Society, is contained in the current issue of "John O' London's Weekly." His name was John Coakley Lettsom, and the article describes him as a man who in his day "played many parts, all of them with distinction, and a high place must be claimed for him among the benefactors of the human race."

Lettsom established the first General Dispensary in London as well as the Sea Bathing Infirmary at Margate, and was the first man to introduce into England the mangel-wurzel.

Born in the West Indies in 1741, he was sent to England at the age of 6 and received his early education at Penketh, in Lancashire. He left school at fourteen, and the following year became apprenticed to Abraham Sutcliffe, an apothecary at *Settle*, in Yorkshire. Under Sutcliffe's tuition he acquired a knowledge of Latin, which was to prove of the greatest assistance to him in his future career.

At the age of twenty he sent out for London to try his fortune, undeterred by the fact that he was without a single friend or relation in the whole of the Metropolis.

An Annual Income of £5,000.

After visiting Edinburgh and Leyden (where he obtained his degree of M.D.) he removed once more to the West Indies, and, settling down as a practising physician, contrived to earn an annual income of close upon £5,000—an almost staggering sum in those days.

Returning to England, he built himself a house at Camberwell, known as Grove Hill, where he was visited by some of the most eminent men and women of his day, among them being James Boswell, who commemorated his visit in some very indifferent verses.

A Hard Worker.

He was an incessant worker. His sole relaxation consisted in an annual visit to Margate, which he accomplished in a stage coach, the distance of the return journey being 144 miles, and the time allotted for the "holiday" seventy-two hours. This, for a man already in his seventieth year, was surely no mean achievement.

The coming of old age brought with it no diminution of Lettsom's interests. He wrote many books, among them "The Natural History of the Tea Tree with Observations on its Medical Qualities," and during the Napoleonic Wars he was busy recommending a substitute for wheaten bread.

He died on the 1st of the following November, and is buried in the Friends' Burial Ground, Roscoe Street, Bunhill Row

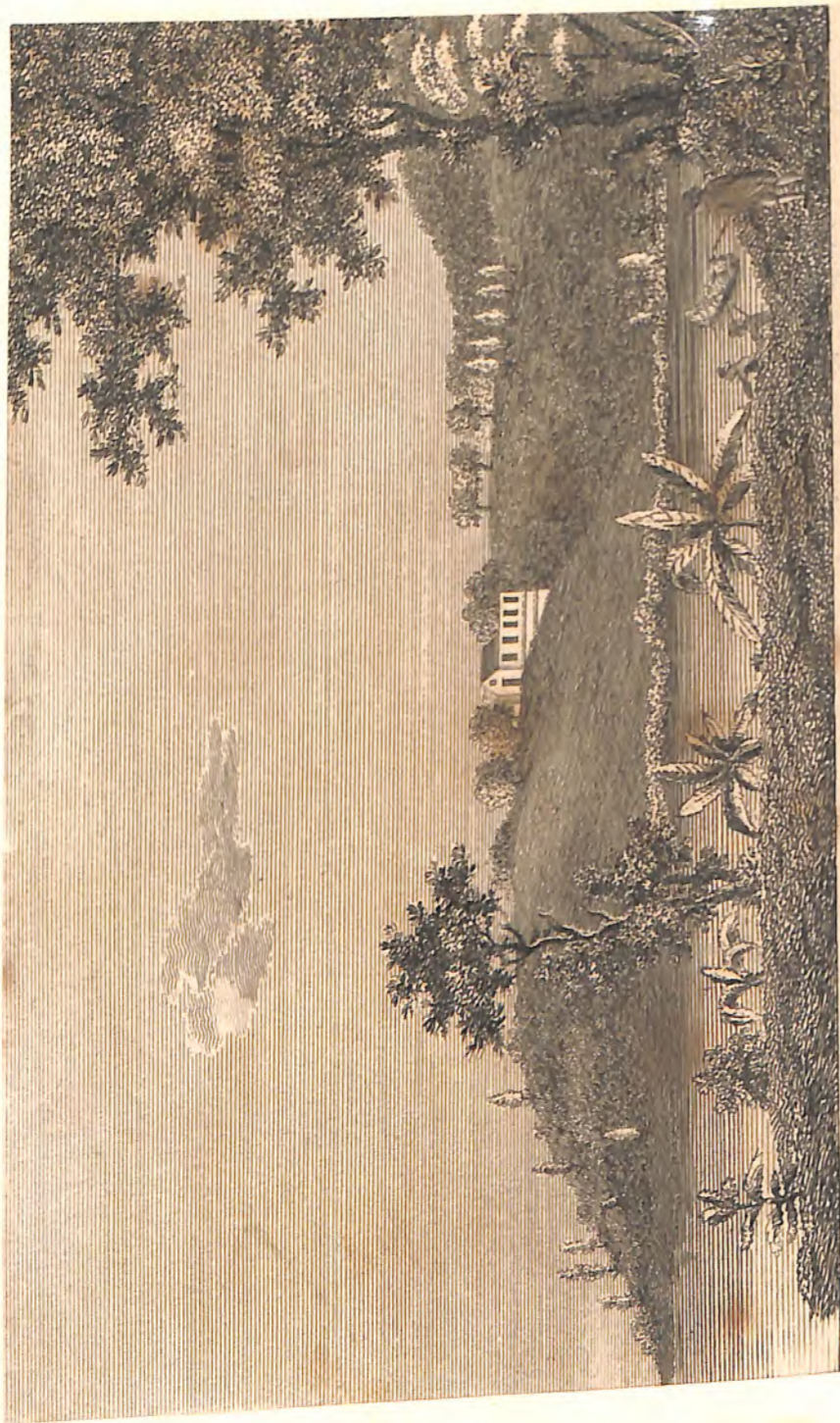
Dr. Abm. Sutcliffe.

ABOUT the year 1710 there was born at Halifax one Abraham Sutcliffe, who, having no patrimony, received only twelve months instruction in reading and writing, when he was put to the hand-loom; but the exertion of throwing the shuttle was too much for his constitution. Having a delicate chest, he left home and walked to Kendal, where he had a distant relation, Dr. Ecroyd, here he got employment carrying out medicines, cleaning the surgery, &c. Becoming acquainted with some boys at a celebrated school there, he borrowed their books and occasionally procured instruction from them. He was now 16, and at 18 had acquired so much Latin as to enable him to read prescriptions, which he also learned to compound. Having by great frugality saved a little money, he was allowed to attend medical classes at Edinburgh, and of course had to walk there, after the winter course he walked back to Kendal and worked for his old master, and after three more such winters he became qualified and visited Settle. Thinking there was a good opening he took a single room and soon became a celebrated practitioner. He soon was able to build the house now occupied by Mr. Thomas Clark, and became a great power in the town, and by his great general (and legal) knowledge was frequently the sole arbitrator in difficult matters. One of his sons (William) succeeded him and was known all over England as a celebrated botanist. He had the advantage of a first-class education, and soon became as much sought after as his illustrious father, being called in to all important cases for many miles round. His father had many pupils, the most celebrated being the great Dr. Lettsom, a sketch of whose life will appear in our next issue,

LOCAL WORTHIES.—DR. LETTSOM.

JOHN COAKLEY LETTSOM was born in 1744, and in 1761 arrived at Settle on a packhorse from Liverpool, in order to get a medical training from Dr. Abraham Sutcliffe. The old doctor taught him Classics, Anatomy and Botany to begin with, and this latter became his favourite study. In this he was much encouraged by several enthusiasts who lived in Settle at the time. One William Kenyon, a nail maker by trade, was a great authority on the local Flora; and Giggleswick Tarn being then in existence, provided a very excellent hunting ground on its banks, for plants which have now become extinct. The young Lettsom formed a "Hortus Siccus" of rare plants, and made excellent drawings of others. He particularly mentions the Birkbecks for their great kindness to him, and his five years apprenticeship evidently passed very happily.

He belonged to the Society of Friends and attended the old Meeting-house in Kirkgate. When Lettsom departed from Settle, he determined to commence practise in London, and took a letter of introduction to a celebrated Dr. Fothergill, who took great interest in the young fellow and helped him in every possible way. He lived at 40, Gracechurch Street, with a former school master, and attended St. Thomas Hospital, where he studied very hard, early and late. Having property in the West Indies, he went there in 1767, and although he was comparatively poor, he immediately emancipated all the slaves on the estate (about 50), as he considered the traffic in blood both wicked and unlawful. He never repented his decision although it made him a voluntary beggar. On his return to England in the following year he travelled to various centres of learning, and then visited the continental schools,



Scene in the Island of Little Van Dyke, near Tortola, with the House in which D. Lettson was born.

taking his degree at the University of Leyden in 1769, where he inscribed his thesis to his old master, Abraham Sutchcliffe. He returned to London and soon acquired great eminence, becoming a fellow of the Royal Society and publishing his book on "The Natural History of the Tea Tree," with observations on medicinal qualities of tea and its effects on the system. This was dedicated to the Duke of Northumberland and brought him into prominence as a great observer and thinker. In 1770 he united with several friends in establishing a "General Dispensary," the first of its kind, for the benefit of the poor, many of whom then lived in cellars and wretched dwellings. He says "The poor are a large and useful part of the community, and as they supply the necessaries of life, have a just claim to the protection of the rich. It is then peculiarly necessary that the hands of pity should be extended to soften the pangs of a sick bed and restore health to the afflicted." He never forgot our little town and in 1782 induced the great botanist, Curtis, to visit Settle (at his expense) and prepare a list of all the Local Plants.

He founded the Medical Society of London and endowed a lectureship to perpetuate his learned friend, Dr. Fothergill, and to this day the Fothergillian Gold Medal is one of the most valued prizes in the profession and is given annually for the best essay on some special subject in Medicine or Natural History. Dr. Lettson has the merit of introducing Mangel Wurzel to this country and he sent the seed all over the world. He was exceedingly benevolent and although he made as much as £12,000 a year, about (1800), he gave it away as freely, to charitable Institutions of all kinds. Although he attended Royalty, the very poorest could command his assistance. Good, humane and benevolent, this celebrated physician died in 1815, and was buried in the Friends' Burial Ground, Little Coleman Street, London.



Dr. Lettsom.



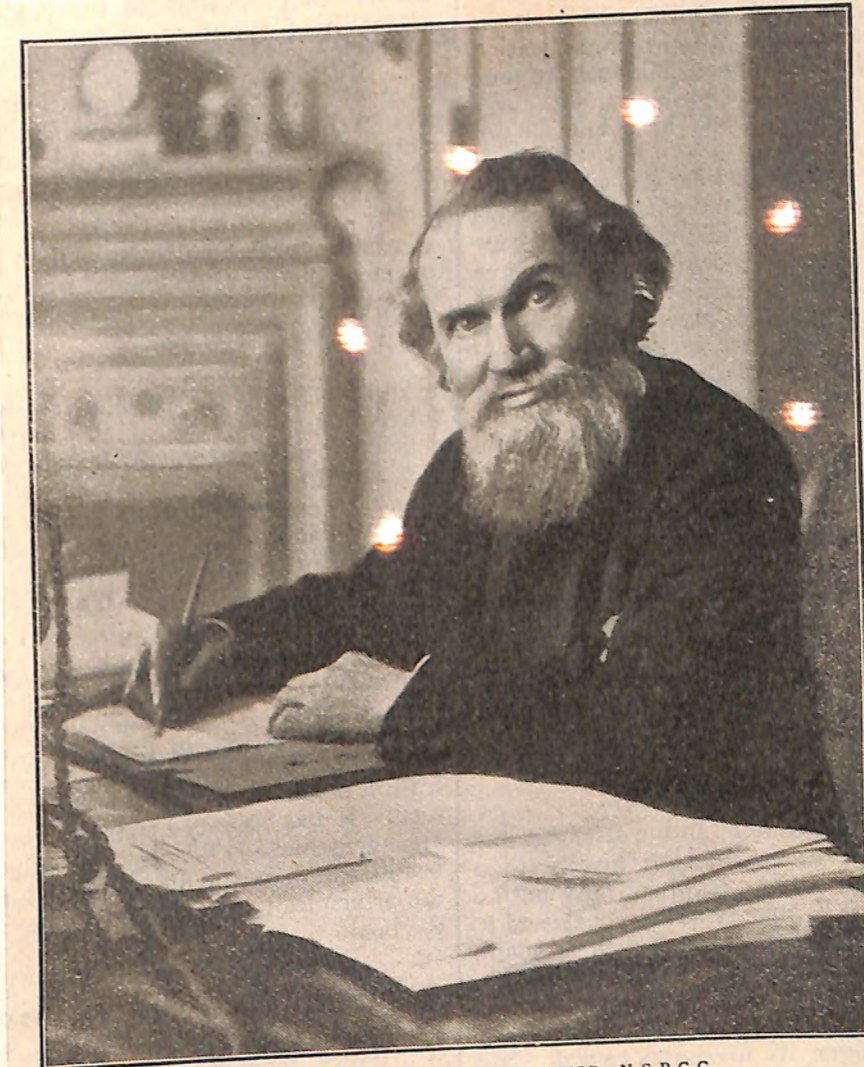
see p. 395

Settle, September, 1st 1834.

I beg to inform you, that the General Meeting of the SETTLE AUXILIARY BIBLE SOCIETY will be held in the New Market-House, on FRIDAY the 12th of September Instant, at Three o'Clock in the Afternoon, when your attendance is respectfully solicited.

J. W. FARRER, Esq. will take the Chair.

JOHN HOWSON, Secretary.



THE REV. BENJAMIN WAUGH, DIRECTOR, N.S.P.C.C.
(From a photo by Mr. Ernest H. Mills, 19, Stanley Gardens, N.W.)



THE NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR
THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO CHILDREN.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.
Patron, The Queen.

Central Office, 7, Lambard St., London, W.C.

1844
1844

BANKERS,
The Bank of England,
LAW COURTS BRANCH

REV. BENJAMIN WAUGH,
Director & Secretary

Dear Mr. Waugh

Thank you very

much for the book

on St. Hilda. I am much

interested in it.

Your obedient servant

very kind to say.

What he did about

me.

Your dear

Benjamin Waugh

Zion Congregational Church, Settle.



UNVEILING CEREMONY,
WEDNESDAY EVENING, MARCH 3rd, 1909, at 7-30.



House in Settle
Market place where
Benj. Waugh was
born.

National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

SETTLE, APRIL 4th, 1900.

DEAR SIR OR MADAM,

THE REV. BENJAMIN WAUGH will give a short ADDRESS
at the Meeting to be held in the Victoria Hall, ^{this} on (Wednesday)
afternoon. Chair to be taken by the Rev. R. C. Garnett, Vicar of
Settle, at 4-0 p.m. Afternoon Tea provided. No. Collection.

We shall esteem it a favour if you or your friends can be
present.

Yours truly,
THOS. BRAYSHAW,
District Correspondent.

IN MEMORIAM.

Benjamin Waugh.

BORN AT SETTLE, 20TH FEBRUARY, 1839;

DIED AT WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA, 11TH MARCH, 1908.