

divinity of Christ." He would have had little sympathy with Unitarian views. Were Dyer's Oxford experiences and his years at Northampton an attempt to repay his debt to the Baptist Fund? And was it not until Miss Stott rejected his suit that he returned to Cambridge and embraced wholeheartedly the views of his old friend Robert Robinson? Are there any who can answer these questions or supply further information on this period in the life of George Dyer?

ERNEST A. PAYNE.

## Letters to Dr. Rippon from New York.

**I**N vol. I. of the *Transactions* of the Baptist Historical Society (pp. 69-76), three lengthy letters from John Bowen of New York to his pastor, John Rippon of Carter Lane, were printed, with the following explanatory paragraph by Dr. Whitley:

After Benjamin Stinton, Thomas Crosby, and James Richardson, John Rippon continued this Southwark tradition of collecting materials for Baptist history. These three letters from one of his church members at Carter Lane, emigrated to New York, show his desire to get first-hand information. The glimpses at the American book trade and the state of the currency are interesting on other accounts. The letters belong to the Rev. Newton H. Marshall, Ph.D., who has lent them for printing.

Mr. Edward C. Starr, Curator of the Samuel Colgate Baptist Historical Collection, Hamilton, N.Y., writes that while studying vol. I. of the *Transactions* he realised that additional Bowen-Rippon letters were in his Collection, and he has forwarded copies in which "care has been taken to follow the original capitalization and spelling." We are much indebted to Mr. Starr for his kindness.

The letters printed below, particularly when read with those published in 1909, throw considerable light on the times, and supply interesting data on the distribution of books at the opening of the nineteenth century. The nature of the correspondence is such that all readers will wish we had the letters from John Rippon to complete the story. Possibly that is too much to expect.

In connection with the Spurgeon Centenary in 1934, I examined the Carter Lane Minute Books, and made a note

that John Bowen was admitted to membership on 3rd March, 1793.  
S.J.P.

\* \* \* \*

New York Janry 26, 1801

Dear Sir

Having been informed by Mr. Cornelius Davis that he had declined sending you any Magazines, since he dropt the Publishing of the Theological, & commenc'd the Missionary magazine which is more impartial, with a wider field open'd for Religious information, induced me to purchase six numbers as they contain some pleasing revivals in different Denominations with a few remarkable conversions that are novel and a full account of all the missionary societies in the United States, supposing them to be very acceptable to you I have inclosed the six numbers with Minutes of the New York & Warwick Baptist associations as a small parcel was all I could obtain, have directed them to you, to *the care of* Capt. Fisher of the Ship Fair America, whom you will see at the New-York Coffee House in Exchange hours, & inform you what Chain his Ship lays at. I received a letter from Mr. Burton of Halifax Nova Scotia wherein he mentions of the church having purchas'd a large storehouse in the Center of the Town and are fitting it up for a Meeting House which he says will come much cheaper than Mr. Merchantons, he mentions some pleasing revivals in Mr. Chipinhams Congregation at Cornwallis, and at another part of the Province the name I do not recollect as the letter is mislaid, that part of his letter respecting you, I can give you verbatim, he says — I have wrote three letters to Doctor Rippon but have received no answer, Nevertheless since that I have received many Gracious answers from Heaven, & respectful answers from eminent ministers of Christ.

I have agreed with Mr. Corn.<sup>s</sup> Davis to send you two numbers or three at a time as it suits the sailing of the London ships, on condition that you are agreeable to send the Baptist Reg.<sup>r</sup> in return. His numbers are published one every two months & the Register twice or thrice times a year which contains as much matter nearly as the six former. Mr. Davis waits your answer.

The Meeting house in Fayette Street is rebuilt, a frame build.<sup>s</sup> 60 feet in length by 43 feet wide [one word obscured] with a table pew and vestry after the English plan—nothing more particular respecting N. York, except it is Politicks which change is more favourable to republican principle's, on the Election of the President & Vice-P<sup>a</sup> ————— Mrs. Bowen joins with me in our kind respects to you & Family & my respects to any of my enquir<sup>s</sup> Brethren of the Church in Carter Lane who still

remains as one of the unwortheft members but,

Your Sincere Friend

Jn<sup>o</sup> Bowen

Please to direct to me care of Mr. Miller No. 318 Pearl Street New York.

I would have also sent you Mr. Mason Sermon but could not get it in N. York as they are all sold.

N.B. I hope you'll furnish us with a letter as it will afford Mrs. B. with many of our English Brethren here a Gratification to here of your welfare as respecting the Church and Religion in London &c in this distressing time the poor and people of middleing circumstances must Experience in the National Calamity on account of the dearness of Provisions & accumulated Burden of Taxes, also what you think of Dr. Livingston's Sermon & Dr. Rogers charge to the missionary &c I enclosed with the magazine.

[Addressed to:]

Revd John Rippon D.D.

No 11 Grange Road

Bermondsey Parish

Southwark, *London*

[Postmarked]

10 o'clock

Mar 14

1801

\* \* \* \*

New York July 8th 1801

My Dear Sir

I rec<sup>d</sup> two parcells of the Register & Pamphlets by Brother Thomas the 14th of May. Fuller on Deism one Volume is missing — A parcell by Mr. Page June 21st all right according to Invoice. Mr. Corn<sup>s</sup> Davis do not chuse to sell the above as he says the profits allowed is not sufficient, you'll please to send but 12 numbers of a sort in future, untill your hear further from me, as it will prevent have a dead stock on hand, besides paying duty freight & permitt. Ill endeavour to do what I can to obtain you as many subscriber's possible. I have sent you three numbers of the Missionary Magazine with the minutes of the N. York & Warwick associations & remain in great haste

Your Affectionate Friend

Jn<sup>o</sup> Bowen

P.S. Dear Sir

I shall endeavour to write some more perticulars by the next ship.

[Addressed]

Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr. Rippon

London

Very Dear Sir

New York Oct 31st 1801

I receiv'd your welcom'd Epistle with a Parcell of the Register's favor'd by the Rev.d Mr. Waterman, but did not him, as he went for Boston in about Ten days after his Arrivell. I hope you have receiv'd my Letter by way of Bristol, dated in July last, which have a very good acct of the revivals of religion in Kentncky & an order for Eleven Vols of each No. 1 & No. 2 of the Register and 1 doz of your enlarg'd Edition of Hymns, at about what you Retail @ 3/-. I believe you may venture to make 2 doz and 1 doz of the 3/6, for this reason because the Baptist church metting in Fayette Street in this city have agreed at their last church metting to use the selection with Dr. Watt's as the Minister or Clerk shall deem it nessacery, which have encourag'd me to treble the order as above half the Congregation have not got them, I might add not three fourth's. I am also requested (by Mr. Page a Mercht in this City, late of Norwich England) to Order one of fine Royal paper, hot pressed and bound in calf, a 6/- with a Portrait if it be a good likeness, he says would rather not have it else, likewise to forward 4 or 6 Tune books with the appendix. I have enclos'd in a small Parcell three N.Y. Missionary Magazines, with the Minutes of two N. York, on Danbury, and Shaftsbury associations, &c.

One of the best preachers in this city is gone to Scotland, and also intends to pay a visit to London in order to obtain, 14 or 15 Scotch Ministers that may be willing to come with him to America as there is several destitute Churches in this State and for Teachers to Establish a Colledge. This Gentlemans name is Rev<sup>d</sup> Jn<sup>o</sup> Mason, it is probable you may hear of his arrivell in London by the Minister of Crown Court Drury Lane, or some of the other Scotch Ministers. I should wish you to hear him and to give your opinion of him, as he was born in this city & Educated in the Colledge of Edinburgh. I am told he is not so stiff when he goes abroad, but will preach for Minister's of other denominations if the give him an invitation. Perhaps he may preach for you. I expect he will endeavour to be in London at the metting of the Missionary Society, ——— Mr. Waterman did not make himself known to any of the Baptist Friends here, or else its most probable the Brethren in Gold Street would have given him an Invitation to stay with them for a while. I understand he has left most of things at his Lodgeings here untill he return ——— Minister's in our denomination in this state of a Liberal Education and are eminantly for Piety are very very scarce, tho' we have reason to be thankful there is a few of the latter character. No doubt ere this reaches you will hear that the Fever have again visited this city as it made its appearance very late this fall, not till the 20th

of Sept.<sup>r</sup> The best information that I can obtain here was about 200 deaths to the 25th inst. Since then our city appear to be very healthy, those that principally died was that which might be properly call'd a *Fall or Billious Fever* as but very few that had the Black Vomit, and some of those had made their escape from the Quarrentine Ground that arriv'd from West Indies, as many as these might be expected to die at that season of the year out of 64,000 thousand inhabitants, under these circumstances we may have reason to say with gratitude that the Lord has spared in great mercy to what we experienced some years that are past except the last. ——— Some of our European subscribers desired me to request you to proceed with the History of the Welch Churches as soon as it can be convenient, as the where afraid it had slipt your memory. I have obtained five more Subscribers which makes in all nineteen, altho their numbers are few I have been carefull whoam I have solicit. Their names where could have confidence. I do not Expect that I shall be able to send you any money untill I receive the volumes aforesaid, as most Subscribers do not chuse to have the numbers delivered untill the receive their first & second vol<sup>o</sup>. My two last Subscribers will be desirous for you to send No. 11, 12, 13, and two of 14 in order to compleat their numbers dificient. This Parcell comes by Capt<sup>N</sup>. Voss, of the Ship Two Friends, who will take care of any Parcell you may send by him at any time which will, when the parcells are small save the customs duties. Brother Brown desires his Christian love to you, he seems a livly soul I enjoy his company much. Mrs. Bowen desires her Christian Love to you and Please to accept the same yourself from

Your affectionate Friend  
Jn<sup>o</sup> Bowen

Dear Sir

P.S. I think it would be adviseable as oft as you can insert any information thats interesting of this country as the Americans, seems quite pleas'd to see it. J.B.

Mr. Williams requested me beg the favour of you to get him Parkhurt's Greek and English Lexicon, in order send out by the return of Capt. Voss. I will remit you the money as soon as I can make up a sufficient sum with Brother Brown to buy a part of a Bill of Exchange to give you an order to receive for him by next ship London.

[Addressed to]

Revd Dr. Rippon  
No. 11 Grange Road  
Bermondsey Parish  
Southwark London

New York Nov<sup>r</sup> 10th, 1802

Very Dear Sir

Your kind Epistle I received favor'd by Mr. Williams. I will render him all the Service that lay in my power I succeeded in getting him an Employer the 4th day after his arrivell, he requested me to give his Christian love to you, it gives me pleasure to hear Brother Douglas is so agreeably situated at Portsea, May the Lord bless his Labors at White Row.

I have enclos'd an order for you to receiv'd Ten pounds Eighteen Shillings & five pence at Sight on Messrs. Wallis, Cook & Hammond, Merchants, London, am sorry you was disappointed by Mr. Waters as I had deposited the amount of that order in the hands of his whife, I have not a doubt but this order will be honor'd as soon as presented, I paid (Mr. Page Merch<sup>t</sup> in this city, who wrote the inclosed order) Eleven Pounds Five Shillings Sterling which sum you'l please place to my credit, the sum of 6<sup>s</sup> 7<sup>d</sup> is 3 p<sup>r</sup> cent discount for Bills on London payable at sight, it is the lowest I could get it done for at present, in this city, sometimes they are as much under par as the are now above. Fourteen Dollars & half or £3. 5<sup>s</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> I received of Mr. Dunn is included in the above sum for Books he sold of yours. I here subjoin a list of Books I receiv'd of Mr. Dunn that was in the possession of Mr. Album & late Dr. Foster, namely 4 vols. of No. 1 Baptist Register from 1790 to 94 one have been damaged or chafed, 14 Hymn Books of your fourth edition 9 are charged 2<sup>s</sup> 9<sup>d</sup> & five 3/- & 1 of better paper charged 3<sup>s</sup> 6<sup>d</sup>. Eighty six number of No. 4 Baptist register 89, of No. 8, 90 of no. 9 & 90 do of 10. ——— I request your advice what I am to do with them, as for the Hymn books, I believe I can sell them altho they are from an Old Edition, the volumes are Backt with red Leather but very much faded as if laid in the Sun — the numbers are in tolerable good order, in my last letter sent you by the Fair American I beg that you would send the Numbers that was due Namely No. 25 to 33 included, No. 34. 35 & 36. I have only received fourteen of each, the subscribers are yet complaing because the Numbers are not sent out regular, therefore beg you will forward them as soon as possible. Mr. Pike Jun<sup>r</sup> whent for London last Spring is coming out here early next Spring, he will be able to take a parcell from you he is Son to Mr. Pike Deacon at Mr. Upton's, his address I have lost. I rec'd the parcell by Mr. Watts of the Two Friends. Your arranged Edition of Dr. Watts is too small a letter for this Markett & too costly, have been to all the Ministers & Clerks in this City that use them & have only sold one, therefore shall close them in the Parcell with the Magazines. I could sold them that come about 3/6 to 4/6 of Larger Letter with ease. I

informed you in my last that the First Volume of B. Register was defective commencing at page 193 or second Page on Holy Peace & ending Page 208 included just one whole sheet difficient, hope you'l not fail to send the sheet for each of the first volumes as the Book binder here can stick them in, if you have not sent the Hymn book as mentioned in a former Letter, with your Likeness, I beg you'l not fail sending it, by the next Parcell, that is your Selection the Large sise superfine Paper Blue Morrocco Gilt of your last edition & one of your arranged Edition of Dr. Watts the same sise Quality & Binding, about 1 doz of your Selection @ 3/6 & 1 doz at 4/6, and at least 1 Doz of your Tune Books with the Supplement, & 6 of your arranged Edition of Dr. Watts @ 4/6 & 6 @ 3/6. I have four subscribers for your History of Bunhill Fields, Mr. Esiekel Robins, Mr. Will<sup>m</sup> Robbins, Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr. Pilmore [?] & Mr. Charles Bird, all of this city. Mr. Robins only, chuses to have the Map with the History. I have not had an answer from the Colledge or City Library as yet, the Subscribers hope you'l forward them as soon as Completed, as the books will be paid for on Delivery. I remain

Dr. Sir Your Affectionate Fr<sup>d</sup>

John Bowen

Please excuse errors as I have had seven or eight attempts before I could complet it.

Mr. Talbot (that formly of e/y Firm, Talbot, Album & Lee, but since, of Brown Talbot & Co.) Died the 4th of this Month of a lingering Illness near two Years, it proceeded from Breaking a Blood Vessel inwardly in great part of his illness he expeired great Darkness of mind even almost to dispair often mourn'd an abscent God, till within a few Days of his departing this Life: he was enabled when light shone upon his soul with a smile on his Countenance said that he could look on a Reconciled God thro a Crucified Savior, that the Sting of Death was taken away, & now he Experined the Presscene of God with him even to the last. Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr. Williams preach'd his Furneral discourse the 14th inst. Lords day Evening from Job 14 Chapt 10 Verse. I mention'd this because I believe you knowd him. Nov. 15th J.B. I have enclos'd in a Parcell three Magazines & five Hymn books favour'd by Mr. Hickling as it will be most convenient for him to send it to Mr. Nortons Fish Street I have so directed it for you. Mr. Hickling is Passinger in e/y Two Friends.

[Addressed to]

Rev<sup>d</sup> Dr. Rippon

No. 11 Grange Road

P<sup>r</sup> Ship

Bemondsy Parish

Two Friends

Southwark London