

Letters to Dr. Rippon from New York.

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.

New York, Febr'y, 12th 1800

Dear Sir

I have sent you at last the Acct. of Revd. [interlined] Mr. Fosters death which I obtained in searching over a file of Papers in Greenleafs Office,—with the Minutes of the New York Association, the Plan of the Bula Society in the first printed paper [interlined] Called the Wester Sky & a Pamphilet of the Revival of Religion in the Eastern States and Nova Scotia it is probable that you might have heard of some of these Revivals via Boston. O that I could give more pleasing Account of Religion in this City, she is greatly increasing her Commerce in different parts of the World in this we have reason to be thankfull, but Alas we have reason to Lament the spread of Vice & Infidelity among the rising Generation & even the

Middle Aged within the last seven or Eight years, notwithstanding so many Warnings and Judgements we have Justly [interlined] experiend from the Mighty hand of God, nevertheless there is a few in differnt Denominations, that are enquireing their way to Zion with their faces [three words interlined] thither ward, so that we are not left wholly without Witnesses for God, the Baptist Church in Fayette Street for the last 18 Months under the Pastoral care of Mr. Williams a Native of Wales have recd. some pleasing Additions within the last 12 Months upwards of 20 have joined them most of whoam where Members of of Indipendant & Baptist Churchs in England, their little place of Worship is much throng'd, the porpose lengthing their Place of Worship, next Summer,—the two last members that joint them is named Louis & Lesy mentioned in the life of David George—Mr. Williams is a very zealous humble. Man, of an impeachibale Character, have not made great Aquirements in Literature, tho very good Ideas [three words underlined] of the Gospel, & is a growing Preacher [two words underlined] who long for the Spread for the Spread of the Redeemers Kingdom he is desireous of a Corrispondance with you I think I can venture to say that in him you will find in him a very honorable one,, in whoam you may place Confidence, the Church in Gold Street are yet [interlined] without a Pastor, the Church in Rose Street, is building a New Place of Worship Mr. Stanfords People most all left him as that he has not above two or [two words interlined] 3 Male Members left it is expected he will leave of Preaching in this city now doubt but you have heard ere this you have have heard of the safe Arrivele of my dear Whife & Children whom joins with me in requesting You to receive our kind respects to you & Family & the Brethren & Sisters [two words interlined] in our Church, who are all more Particulary [three words interlined] ac-

quainted with us. should take it as a favour to receive a letter from you, respecting Religion in our Church & in London, &c [interlined] I porpose giving you another letter in the Summer, & remain

Dear Sir Your Sincere & Affectionate Friend,

JNO. BOWEN

Please to direct to me at Mr. Millers No 318 Pearl N. York

[Endorsed] Revd Mr John Rippon

No 11 Grange Road, Bermondsey Parish, Southwark, London.

New York Augst 15th 1801

My very Dear Sir,

I recd your pleasing Epistle with ye Parcell [three words interlined] the middle of last Month, favord by Mr. Brown, which gives me a Considerable pleasure to hear of the increase of Our Church, with your Baptizing of two Minissters, Also of Mary Glassgow, may she prove to be a God fearing Woman, as I veryly believe she has joind a God fearing people please to give my love to Mary and tell her that it have given me often [interlined] a pleasing Reflection with gratitude [these two words added to replace one smudged out] being brought to hear the word in Carter Lane, & joined to the Lords [interlined] people, tho there is many very [interlined] friendly & pious people here, I expect never to be so well satisfied, & happy in Pastor & people as with them, may she be enabled to realise those inestimable [ma interlined] Blessings, with similar Reflections,

I wrote you a short letter & sent you two numbers of the Misy Magazine by the Brothers Care of the Capt Dickenham, with the acknowledgement of the receipt of three first parcells, I have Obtained 14 Subscribers for the Register, with an Expectation of more you please to send me Ten volumes of No 1 & Nine Vols of No 2 half Bound & Letterd as these will compleat the above Subsrs with what I have in hand, I have sold the two tune Books, and have an Order for two more, if you please you may send me 4 or Six with & without Clasps as before, also have [a word obliterated] an Order for three of your [two words interlined] Hymn Books with the Adenda Mr. Williams have introduced them in their prayer meetings at Fayette Street & intend by degrees to introduce them in public Worship, so I believe you may Venture to send 1 doz of the enlarged Edition of the Selection six on common at 3/s & six of Larger or better paper at 3s. 6d Sterg, & one of Fine Royal paper not pressd, & bound in Calf with Head if a good Likeness not else [two words interlined] as it is for an English Gentleman that heard you preach not three Years ago, Mr Ustick of Philadelphia was on a Visit here informd me that he had just [interlined] printed two Thousand of your Selection of Hymns, Also offord to send me two or three Dozen & Charged me Ten for every dozen I sold; he retail's them at 87½ Cents equal to 7/s N.Y Currency, & exactly each [interlined] 3s. 11¼d [underlined] Sterling, thus you see the English [these two words interlined, replacing we] Labors and the American enjoys the sweets of their Labor with little troble, it is so with every new Publication that is likely to sell, that comes over, it is the case in respects to ["Sullivan" crossed out] the Gospel its own Witness by Mr. Fuller, publisd 2000 Copies by Mr. Corns. Davis N. York, notwithstanding, Mr. Ustick gives me from 70 to 80 Dollars for P.[interlined] Ink I [inter-

lined] risfusd to take any of his Books as he could have been supplied from you [interlined] what he wanted, I told ["it" obliterated] him it was not worth his while to [interlined] send any of his publishing here as I had some comeing from London of the Tenth & enlarged Edition, he was Angry with me because, I would not let him have the Adenda, that you was so kind to send me over, with other pamphlets for which I return you many thanks. Mr. Shepard Kollock Printer of Elizabethtown, printed one Thousand of your Hymns about 4 Years ago, were principally sold to [interlined] the Presbyterians for Family use, I never have been able to get the Medal or a Copper plate of it as there was not Subsribers enough to defray the Expences, in one of your former Letters, you requested to know wether there was a settle Minister at Gold Street, Mr. Collier & Mr. Snoad for near 2 Years & 4 Months have Preachd preachd [one word on each page] for them Mr. S only 5 months, he is a Universals Mr. C— I hear is going away as the went a person of better Abilities, none our English Baptist would hear him above once, indeed I do sincerely wish the had an able Zoalous & [interlined] Laborious Minister settled amongst them, whose Labors the Lord would eminently Bless, the Church is Building themselves a very spacious large Metting House of Stone with a foundation for a Steeple suited for a Bell & Clock the are now gething Rafters over [interlined] for the Roof one of [interlined] the Members told me the foundation was 80 feet Long & 50 or 60 Broad, this House surround the place where the Old one stood,—I have collectted 12 dollars as soon as I can collect Fower or Five Pound Sterling, shall pay it into the Hands of a Respectable Mercht here whoam will give me an Order or Bearer on a House in London, please to give my Christian Love to any of my Bretheren or Sisters that may enquire after me

& please to except the same yourself from

Dear Sir Your Affectionate & Sincere Friend

JNO BOWEN

N.B. Mrs. Bowen desires her kind respects to you & Family Revd Mr. Williams desires me to give his Christian Love to you In my last Letter I requested you [interlined] to send me only 12 numbers of each sort of the Register, I conclude it will be best to continue their number as usual. At present I see not prospect of Success respecting Histy of Bunhill fields, if you was to prosecute the Abridgement of Dr. Gills Exposition of the New Testiment, I could soon Obtain a very pleasing Number of Subscribers,—J.B.

New York Sepr 6th, 1802

Very Dear Sir,

I Receiv'd a parcell of Books you sent [two words interlined] by the Revd. Mr. Chamberlain Namely 22 Vols, 16 of No 1 & 6 of No 2 instead [underlined] of Eleven Vols of each—Five Vols of [interlined] No 1 was mark'd on the Back as No 2 [six words underlined] A Mistake of the Binder another defect in the whole 16 Vols. of No1, is sixteen Pages wanting [interlined] commencing the second Page [two words underlined] of the Northampton Letter on Holy Peace or page 193 & ending Page 208 included which makes one whole sheet, this is a great Omission as it cannot be soon rectified being at such a vast Distance, nevertheless if you'l please to send one whole sheet for each Volume, as above discricrib'd the Bookbinder can Stich them in here, also please to send me 5 Volumes of No 2 to supply the other subscribers that are much in want of them, I am yet in want of No 25 up to the present Month (except one Dozen of No 34. [] scratched out)

that was pack'd in the aforesaid Parcell therefore will thank you to forward 12 more of ["No 34" obliterated] the last Number,) I hope these you have [interlined] sent by the Ship Two Friends as also the Tune Books & Hymn Books enlarg'd Edition [interlined] I advis'd you to forward in three or four Letters past, I also wrote for one of the [replacing "your"] best Editions of your Hymns with your Likeness bound in Calf, for Mr. Page of Norwich Old England who is also desireous of having one of your best [interlined] Arranged Editions of Dr. Watts Bound in Calf, in my last Letter sent you is an Order for you to receive £4. 10s [underlined] of a Mr. Waters whose family [interlined] lives next Door to me, the Ship Two Friends he belong to as Steward I expect is about returning to this Port.—I porpose sending you in about two Months time Seven or Eight Pounds more, as some my Subcribers are yet in the Country, Mr. Dunn has lately movd to Philadelphia, a Box of Books & Registers Which was in the Possesion of [interlined] the Late Dr. Foster & Mr. Allum Mr. Dunn [two words interlined] has left in my Possesion, the first Oppertunity I took them over, & make out a [interlined] List or Catilouge & send you in Order to have your Advice what to do with them. Mr. D. have paid into my hands, 14 Dolls. & $\frac{1}{2}$ for me to remitt you, I am sorry to inform you that Mr. D. has preach'd for [interlined] the Universalists in this City & publicly Declar'd his Attachment to their Principles.

The new Mettinghouse in [deleted] Gold Street in this City, (belonging to the Old Baptist Church) was Open'd the 2nd of May last Revd. Mr. Gano preach'd from Exodus 20 Chap 24 verse In all places where I record my name, I will come unto thee, and I will Bless thee, the Hymns where 338, 339 & 344 of your Selection were sung, by a Crowded Congregation, and Liberal Contributions indeed it was a pleasing and Profitable Oppertunity. Mr. Chamberlain requested me

to give his Christian love to you, he arriv'd here the middle of July his stay here was about a fortnight, he saild from Philadelphia for India about 9th or 10th of Augst—

Mrs. B. joins with our Christian love to you & Mrs. Rippon and Remain

Dr Sir Your Affectionate Friend
in haste.

JNO. BOWEN

P.P. I send you a small Parcell that Accompany this Letter (by Capt Flower of the Ship Fair American) two M Magazines, & Minutes of N. York & Warwick Association &c. [partly printed in the Register, pages 1134 & 1150]

Revd. Dr. Rippon