

First Impressions of Bristol.

For the following letter we are indebted to Prof. S. W. GREEN, M.A.

Bristol. January 1826.

My dear Father and Mother,

According to agreement I set to work to write to Dunstable, and that I may not forget what I ought to write, will begin with the morning that I left home, and relate occurrences. Before I set off, I felt very sick, but did not like to mention it. Riding inside the coach increased rather than allayed that sensation. I reached London however tolerably well, got some dinner at the "Cross Keys," from thence went to Basinghall St, and secured an inside place; also wrote on a card to that effect, and gave it to the porter, which I suppose you received. From Basinghall St. went to Fenchurch St. where I saw Mr. Alfred Tebbitt, who directed me to Mr. Dyer. From Mr. Dyer's I immediately proceeded to Hoxton, and saw Danl Griffiths, stayed with him about $\frac{1}{4}$ of an hour, and then returned by the same way that I went to the end of Bishopgate St.; from there I went on and saw the Monument and London Bridge, returning I got into the Royal Exchange about 4 o'clock, where all was bustle. Having gazed about there, and at the outside of the Bank, thought it time to get to my lodging house. I then had some tea, and told them that I should want a bed, which I forgot the first time I went. The Book-keeper, however, had told them

before. I went into the Coffee-room, where there are about ten places somewhat like horses' standings. Sitting down in one of them I had some tea, and with some trouble beguiled away the time till eight o'clock, when according to agreement D. Griffiths called upon me, and we went to Mr. Bland's, where we supped. Returned at ten, but did not get to bed till eleven, and through the noise that was made great part of the night did not get to sleep till after midnight. Was called up at $\frac{1}{2}$ past five, started at $\frac{1}{2}$ past six. Riding inside did not agree with me, and at Chippenham I was rather sick; rode outside one stage, but found that it would not do after having been inside. Reached Bristol about $\frac{1}{2}$ past nine. Had some Tea and went to Bed. My Bed Room is No. 6, Study No. 19. There is no fire place, but a contrivance to let in warm air, which makes it warmer than the dining room where a wasting fire is kept. The rooms are furnished as follows. Bed Room—Wash Hand stand, Table, chair and looking glass. Study.—Chair, Desk, and Shelves. We find our own Soap, Candles and Napkins. Mrs. Hornblower is going to provide me some napkins. The following is the order of the day. At $\frac{1}{2}$ past six o'clock a bell (somewhat like the crier's) is rung to call us up. Two or three mornings in a week Mr. Crisp delivers a lecture at seven precisely. At 8 the breakfast bell is rung and five minutes afterwards it is rung again, and in one minute the whole family is in the dining room, consisting of nearly 30 persons, when Mr. Crisp conducts family worship, immediately after which we have breakfast; on Sabbath morning, Bread and Butter and Meat and Tea, other days, Toast Bread and Br and Tea. Breakfast over we get to work till $\frac{1}{2}$ past ten, when we have to attend Mr. A[nderson]., or Mr. Crisp with our lessons. At two to Dinner, which is always a very good one. After dinner, exercise, and study till nearly six, which is tea time. Supper about nine consisting

of Bread and Cheese &c excepting Sabbath evening when we had hot Tripe and cold meat. I have got on tolerably well since I have been here and am very comfortable. Mrs. Hornblower, our housekeeper, is a very motherly person, very prudent, and pious. Think of a gentleman watching over his pupils with the affection of a parent, and giving them reproof if necessary, as though he was asking a favour, and you will represent to yourself Mr. Crisp. Mrs. C. appears to be a very pleasant lady, but she has nothing to do with the Academy.

I went up (for it is a very steep hill) to Mr. Anderson's on Sabbath morning, went to meeting with him, and also dined with him. Mr. Crisp preached in the morning, one of the Students in the afternoon, and Mr. Foster in the evening; Mr. Foster put me in mind of the old Luton Postman, and he talks a little like him, but his preaching it would be vain and fruitless for me to attempt to describe, it was truly wonderful; Mr. Hall is to be here in about a fortnight. The Students seem to be very pleasant young Men, there are 4 new ones this quarter, all of whom were here before me, one or two of the Seniors are not come yet, the whole number will be 14.

I am learning Latin and Greek you know, and this morning I have been to Mr. Crisp with an Hebrew lesson. I am fully employed. My health I think never was better, I have coughed very little since I have been here.

Mr. and Mrs. Anderson desire to be kindly remembered to you, and Mr. Anderson wished me to say that if you were in want of someone to preach, you might apply to Mr. Hawkins of Weymouth. Mr. Ellingham's customer did receive the last parcel of plat. I must send my love to John, I should like to see him again. Tell him I get no warm beds. The Academy is a large building. On the ground floor

are the Dining room the Lecture room, The Library, the parlour, kitchen &c. As soon as we reach the second floor we get into a long passage, and into this passage our study doors open, 16 on each side, on the third floor are our bed rooms, situated in the same manner. I do not recollect anything else to write respecting my present situation, I have everything necessary to comfort, and very great advantages, and I hope I shall improve them, and turn them to the best account.

Please to give my respects to my Friends at Dunstable & Houghton,

and accept the love
of

Your affectionate Son
WM. ROBINSON.

P.S. Hebrew is read not like English beginning on the left hand of the page, but beginning at the right and going just backwards.

P.S. Two of us have this afternoon been out to purchase Hebrew Grammars. We got our books at wholesale prices. I must now get to work till 7 o'clock, (now past six) when we go to what is termed conference, when one of the students speaks, and afterwards Mr. Crisp from the same text. We have also to deliver essays &c, in rotation, but I must get to my Greek.

Adieu.