

Anthony Benezet
Philad. An: 1783 —

No. 24

for
George Dillwyn
Burlington.

(Evans Collection)

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Dear George I received thine by Johnny Morris,
so late in evening, that I have not time to write to
Brother William. I wrote pretty largely to him & Morris
Burbeck in conjunction, time not allowing to do it to
each, by Cap^r Falconer who is gone by way of Ostend; also
to Granville Sharp, Parson Tucke, Dav^r Barclay & Thom^r
Wagstaffe on the necessity of Friends, by themselves or in
conjunction with others, laying before Parliament
that if they expect the Divine Blessing on their labour,
they must endeavour to put an end to the Slave Trade;
this I purpose to repeat more at large in future occasion.
If thou shouldst find thy mind drawn to repeat something
of the same, thou mayst perhaps have time to do it.
I was disappointed in my desire of spending sometime
with thee during the meeting, as also yevening before & the
morning thou left us, which was some trouble to me. I particu-
larly wished to have communicated what I received by
Mr. Hawke from Broth^r William & Herr^r Burbeck dated
abt. 12 Mon^r past; it was chiefly hind answers to my ideas
of a proper education of our youth, the children of a people
professing to be called to a separation from the spirit which
is peculiar to this corrupt world; a kingdom of Christ,
an holy nation, a peculiar people; in as plain & simple a way
as the part they may be called to act for their religion,
establishment & the real good of mankind may require
avowing as much as possible every thing which may be
a fuel to vain & selfish principle. There thought ye
with the Spelling Book, they gave me expectation might
be lend before the committee of Ackworth School
Thy brother add^r. That Granville Sharp has lately taken
a great deal of pains, by personal application to most
of the Bishops, to interest them in promoting the cause of
the freedom of the Negroes. doublep^r to endeavour an
end

being put to it iniquitous waffish: several of whom have
persuaded him to believe they are conveined of the expediency
of abrogating slavery & a willingness to forward ^{it} by any
mean in their power; this William think little of, till
calamities nearly equal to those of oppressed African
sons threat told; But I don't apprehend we ought to
slipper any impression, we may feel towards bringing
on this desirable end. What I wrote ~~was~~ ^{on this head} chiefly a
recapitulation of what I some years ago wrote to Doctor
Fothergill John Elliott & other friends ^{to which receive the summe}, about considering
how far it might be the duty of Friends and Society to
lay the iniquity of the Slave Trade before Parliament
as I thought it, now appears a favourable Crisis, the
mind of people generally appearing in some degree of
softness.earnestly requested Friends in London would
weightily consider how far duty to God & love to our
fellow-men called upon them to bear, such publick testimony,
against this enormous evil; wishing that the Merchandise
alone, the purchase made by another, nor the marriage
of a third, might ^{not} prevent a due consideration of a matter
of such importance to mankind; that whether they
succeeded or not at present, it might lay the foundation
of a good work in which they could not but meet with
the approbation of every reasonable feeling heart.
I who enclosed the Extract from the Reugnal which
herewith send thee, as a copy of it may hereafter be
of service when it may be generally forgot: As I cannot
find ^{time} to copy it I should be glad when thou hast taken
a copy, or only read it, thou will send it back by
some safe hand, I generally meet with difficulty in
matter I propose, perhaps it best to check my natural
activity & remissness I have now had for I think

Committee

more than six months before of meeting of Suffering an
Open & short but full representation of a state grievous
effect of Slavery as well with respect to Slave as their
more unhappy masters & their Offspring, setting forth
the advantage which would accrue from a abolition of
Slavery, ^{in which John Battell put down warm & strong, for} which we intend to put in hand of all the
men in power on the continent particularly to the Southward
where there is an apprehension that Slave trade may
again opened. This I should have been glad they
had had opportunity of perusing; finding a kind of
a damp cast upon it by some friends, I think arising
from a contractor of Idea, I have several times intended
to lay ^{aside} design but cannot with ease of mind. It was
of same with Eliz Webb's letter which with very great
difficulty I prevailed upon friends to print yet it
has mett with a great if not a greatest approbation
of any thing of that kind I have known. A fire
from York Town Elisha Kirk & several others desire
the publication of it in German; he has it now
translating & is making a collector for a charge
as the committee did not care to engage in it.
With unceas or rather increasing fellowship above

I remain thy poor but affectionate

Anthony Benezet