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The
Pennsylvania
Magazine

OR

HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY.

Vol. XLI

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THE
PENNSYLVANIA MAGAZINE
OF
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VOL. XLII.

1917.

No. 4.

SOME MATERIAL FOR A BIOGRAPHY OF MRS. ELIZABETH FERGUSSON, *née* GRÆME.

BY SIMON GRATZ.

(Continued from Vol. XXXIX, page 406.)

Mrs. Ann Græme to Miss Mary Bard, Burlington, N. J.

December 6th 1757.

Dear Miss Bard

It was a very great concern to me that I mist the opportunity of taking my leave of you but I believe you may immagin it was not out of anny disregard but I really did expect mamma down stairs to go to market she intended to come but meeting with M^{rs} Kersaly she told us you were gone wich prevented us pray make my service acceptable to M^r denormandes family and now to conclude with my humble service to you and all your good family I remain with the greatest respect your most obedient servant

Ann Græme

Mrs. Ann Græme to Mrs. Campbell.

May 15/1752

Dear Madam

With this you will receive My Betsy who has a great desire to spend a day or two with you; as it is the first time she has been abroad by her self I should not chuse to lett her go but to such a Friend as you, who I am sensible will put a good natured construction on innocence and inexperience, but this I may promise for her, she would not willfully offend and further I can assure you, she will make no such uneasy complaints as you was troubled with this time last year, but to my unspeakable Joy that purplexing affair is now quite at an end and

386 *Mrs. Elizabeth Fergusson, née Grame.*

ended more to my satisfaction by far than I could have hoped, and the only way it could have given me pleasure. the particulars of which I refer you to our Friend M^r Annand I have promised to spend a few days with M^{rs} Baird which if I have in my power to perform I shall not fail of giving my self the pleasure to see you going or coming, however that be. I am with unalterable esteem

Dear Madam

Your Much Ollged and Most Hum^{ble} Serv^t

My Complmts to M^r Camel

A. Grame.

Mrs. Ann Grame to Mrs. Campbell, Burlington, N. J.

June 14/1752

Dear Madam

The favors Betsy received from you and M^r Campel lays me under too great obligation to suffer me to be silent when I have an opportunity to acknowld itt. Betsy is so delighted with your manner that she can talk of nothing else, (but this is paying a complement to her Judgment). I am likewise much obliged to all the Ladies of Burlington and Bristol for the Kind notice they were pleased to take of her to whom universally my service & thanks.

My Compliments to Mr Campel Joined with Betsys and Jennys to you both.

I hope you will both live to know the pleasure it gives a parent to see their children taken notice of by people of worth and then you will be more sensible how

much I am

Dear Madam Your Much

Obliged Humble Serv^t

Ann Grame

Elizabeth Fergusson to Mrs. Campbell.

Grame park May 9 1779

My dear M^{rs} Campbell

A few weeks ago your affectionate epistle dated february 1779 was sent me up here: I know not by what conveyance it came, nor by what Channel this which is meant as a Reply to it may Reach you: but hope it may get safe tho' It can only offer a tributary Tear of Sorrow to those which I dare say already flow for the Calamities of our Country, involv'd in all the Sad train of Affliction incident to a Civil War.

The account you in yours give me of your late Illness drew a heart wrung tear from my Eyes: for alas so strongly are we formed, that the trouble we feel for an individual that is dear to us is of a more heart piercing nature than the greatest Sceme of Affliction that can be Exhibited from a Suffering Nation: I have sometimes been ashamed of this selfish principle but upon a more mature Survey of the Order of Man: Considered in his moral capacity I believe it is intended; that those troubles within our own Sphere; should affect us most, because

they are of a Nature in our power often to relieve by our Sympathy; which I fear would flow but coldly, was there not Some Stimulative more active to push us on than bare reason: we see Continually where that speaks without Passion or Affection; we move but very slowly on to anything which requires activity.

If you my dear friend have accomplished your journey to N York as you purpos'd at the time you wrote to me you will in all probability have heard more of me and my affairs than at Mr Frasers: for Mrs Burton knows a good deal about me; as she often saw M^r F——n at York but in Case you should not have accomplished that excursion, I shall briefly touch on my Situation, There is not that person in the World I would more freely give my Mind to on any and all Subjects than the dear good woman to whom I am now writing: but I have been so unfortunate in having my Letters on the most interesting Subjects open and pass through Hands that were no ways interested in their Contents: that I write now to my dearest friends but very seldom and that with Coolness and Caution.

In less than a Month after the date of Mine to you in *September*, the Commissioners for the State of *Pennsylvania* Seized this property in Consequence of Mr Fergussons being among the unfortunate proscrīb'd, the personal Estate was all sold except the furniture of two rooms and the Real Estate Rented for a year; I rented it myself. At the Expiration of that time it is to be sold during Mr Fergussons and my Life: that is the Death of either of us the State has no farther Claim on it; had I had a child Mr. F. would have had his life in it; but that not being the Case He has only his Life during my Life in it. I have presented a Petition to the Assembly in consequence of the [illegible] Situation of My affairs; they are to meet in August and I hope as the Property came Solely by my Father and I show no Desire to leave the Country and have ever been against the British Side really from Principle; I hope all these things Cast into the Scale, will have their proper Weight, I purpose if it comes to the last Pinch to bid for it myself, as I cannot think that any person will be either So ill natured or so imprudent to bid high for an Estate thus Circumstanced: they the purchasers hold it no longer than the Life of a woman of my Age, joined to a Constitution frail by nature, but made much more so by trouble; I am determined to do everything that prudent advice can Dictate to preserve this patrimony: as it is more dear to me from its Relative Value than from its Intrinsic one: tho' that is a Comfortable Support; for me & my all: And now my dear friend you Enquire particularly Concerning My Neice: she is Married to a very Sober Industrious young Man; It was quite a Love Match and they are entirely happy in Each Other; Her father poor man for some Strange whim or Other could never be brought to approve it: in this temper He liv'd and Died, tho' not so as to affect His Will: He divided all He had (which was no great Matter) between his two Children But that part to His Son was Obliged not to be nam'd in that Manner, as He was with the British But as all His Property was in Land; and He left Express

orders that it should be sold immediately on His Decease; it will in the End be but a poor affair; because it was sold at a time when the Exchange of Gold was near twenty for one and in no degree Sold in that proportion: as Land Sells for Less than anything. My Neice left the City a few Days before the British enter'd it, she remained with me here a fortnight But Her Husband having a Department with the Hospital at Bethlem; she went with her family when there and thereabouts she remain'd during the Whole time the British were in this State. She is now settled in the City, she spent a Week with me this Spring, she came up to wean her little Boy who was then a year old He was born when she was in Exile in the Mountains, Her first A Girl; was two years old last September, this Boy was Baptized Thomas Gramé: Her Girl Ann; they are large Children; but not so as Sprightly the Eldest as some that are less, But these little things alter very much. Amy makes a tender mother; and Affectionate wife But more particularly in the latter Character than in the former; as she has many that Equal her in the first but none that Exceed her in the Latter.

My Nephew John Young you know very early show'd An Attachment to the British; near two years he was a Prisoner on his Parole with me at this Place, but on the British entering the Capitall in September 77 He join'd them, He first got a Lieutenancy in the New Levies but had soon Interest Enough to get a Commission in His Old highland Regiment, Col. Sterling Commands; and Co' Sterlings Mother and M^r Youngs Mother were own Sisters; so that He seems fix'd among them now for Life. He was always of a Military turn which I wish to Heaven he would have indulg'd in any way but the Line he moves in; for the Drawing His Sword against his Mother Country seems to me a most Heinous offense. I did every thing while he was with me to wean him from this unhappy Bias, but the Event too fully prov'd I could not prevail: as indeed I show'd my bad Success where I was much more deeply interested than with him.

When I reciv'd yours of february Dear Madam; I was just return'd Home after a journey at a very inclement Season of the year; I went to Elizabethton point to take leave of M^r Fergusson; who Embarked for Boston immediately after His Interview with me: and I am yet ignorant of his Arrival; I was absent from home 6 weeks which was double the period of time I have ever been absent from this Spot Since the Death of my dear Father; so totally Domesticated Have I been since my Marriage; out of the Seven years that I have been married my Husband has lived but two years and a few months with me; and in that period Six times has he Cross'd the Atlantic Ocean and is now on Earth without Home or Habitation: so much has this Coming of the British done for Him: As for me I have no right to Complain of them; because from first to last, I have Sincerely been their Enemy as far as Christianity will admit of Enmity. It is so long since I wrote to you and the Reading your Epistle seems to have drawn forth all my tender feelings, that I know not when or where to Stop: On perusal what I have wrote I seem to have forgot the Rule I laid down to myself, Namly