

[Northampton] [Nov. 3, 1806]

Sir,

I am sorry for the trouble I gave you
 yesterday, & having attended the
 meeting at Northampton today I
 can't do otherwise but to beg of you
 to have made such arrangements with Mr
 Atkisson, as will leave me a liberty
 to pass on in undisturbed from
 South Devon on Wednesday next -
 I wish to be in Devon on Saturday,
 that I may see you for some
 time & can be in the city & be in a day
 to go for the time to Northampton, if
 I should think that my
 attendance necessary - I beg if
 you please to accept the committee,
 from the year in which you have
 been in the committee to our cause,
 to be received in the committee
 committee on Sunday or Tuesday &
 can the honor be by in your

very respectfully
Yours
J. Davis

Nov-5-1806

[To William Windham, Esq
London]

[Faint handwritten notes or bleed-through]



Handwritten text at the top of the envelope flap, including a date "1881-10-2" and a name "John Nichol".

William's
L.R.R.
my friend
C. Farr

NOV 3 1881
LONDON

F. L. Johnson 974

596 SHAKESPEARE.—Barker (E. H., *Philologist and Author*) A.L.S., 2 pp., 4to, to "Sylvanus Urban" (John Nichols), editor of *Gentleman's Magazine*, on the subject of "Farriana," and Dr. Farr's belief in Ireland's Shakespeare Forgeries, and John Nichols' draft reply, Aug. 2, 1828, 27/10. [110]

Dr. Farr was one of the highly respectable literary men despoiled by Ireland and Shakesperian Forgeries. In the above letter Barker says: "On the subject of Farr's unorthodoxy, see, you will see that I have done much for the Doctors' memory. You will also see that I have vindicated the believers in the Shakespeare papers on safe grounds and no person had yet successfully done this. It shows so you how much that affair injured the Doctors' character. I will mention that two very clever and very eminent men have told me that Dr. Farr had no critical discernment on which they could depend because he had signed the attestation of belief in the genuineness of the papers."

Faint embossed text: "THE NEWSPAPER"

Sir,

I am sorry for the trouble I gave you yesterday, and having attended the Norfolk [meeting ?] at Northampton to-day, I have the satisfaction to tell you that I have made such arrangements with Lord Althorpe as will leave me at liberty to pursue my intended route from London to Norwich on Wednesday next. I wish to be at Norwich as soon as possible that I may rest there for Mr Windham & Mr Coke, & be in readiness to go thence to Northampton if Lord Althorpe should think my attendance necessary. I beg of you to present my compts to the Committee. I hope that your intelligence from Norfolk is favourable to our cause. I shall receive instructions from the Committee on Sunday or Tuesday, & I have the honour to be, Sir, your very respectful & obedient servant

[William] Windham, Esq^r
Bury Street
London

S. Parr
Nov. 5 [1806]

Samuel Parr (1747-1825) English schoolmaster and scholar, judging from this letter alone, certainly deserved the reputation of writing the most illegible hand of his times. The "translation" of the text of this letter was made by the great collector of manuscripts, William Upcott, and even he failed to decipher one word.

The letter appears to be addressed to William Windham (1750-1810) English politician who was of the Whig fraternity in politics. He was a member of Parliament from Norwich from 1784, but lost his seat in 1802, but a place was found for him from the pocket borough of St Mawes, Cornwall. On Pitt's death in January, 1806, he joined the ministry of "All the Talents" under Lord Grenville as secretary of state for war and colonies. In a general election in November, 1806, Windham was elected for the county of Norfolk, but the election was declared void, and he was compelled to sit for the borough of New Romney.

In the general election of November, 1806, Lord Althorpe was elected for Northamptonshire. He was a Liberal.

Thomas William Coke (1754-1842) later Earl of Leicester, known as "Coke of Norfolk" (Holkham) was a sturdy and aggressive Whig. He was a member of Parliament for Norfolk, 1776-1784, 1790-1806, and 1807-1832.

Since Parr was a Whig, and a friend of Windham, Althorpe, and Coke, it is apparent that the letter has to do with election matters, possibly with the question of the contest over Windham's seat.

TRANSLATION.

Sir/

I am sorry for the trouble I gave you yesterday, I having attended the Norfolk ^[meeting] at Northampton to day, I have the satisfaction to tell you, that I have made such arrangements with Lord Althorpe, as will leave me at liberty to pursue my intended route from London to Norwich on Wednesday next. - I wish to be at Norwich as soon as possible that I may ask thee for Mr Winsham & Mr Coke, & be in readiness to go from thence to Northampton if Lord Althorpe should think my attendance necessary - I beg of you to present my Complts to the Committee. - I hope that your intelligence from Norfolk is favourable to our Cause. I shall receive instructions from the Committee on Sunday or Tuesday, & I have the honour to be, Sir, your very respectful & obedient

Servant

S Parr

Nov. 5. 1806

William Speck
Nov. 1821

[This is Speck's writing]

[Parr became rector of Wadenhoe, Northamptonshire in 1789. He was a friend of both Coke (of Holkham) and Mr Winsham (1750-1810) who are mentioned in the letter. Lord Althorpe was of the Spencer family, probably the Lord Earl. The name Althorpe is associated with one of the finest private libraries ever assembled]

197. PARR (Samuel). The Works of. With Memoirs of His Life and Writings, and a Selection from His Correspondence. By John Johnstone. Portrait. 8 volumes, large, thick, 8vo, black morocco, gilt edges. London, 1828. \$15.00

**Samuel Parr (1747-1825), divine and pedagogue. He was regarded in his day a whig Johnson, and a fine Latin scholar who excelled as a writer of Latin epitaphs. Among literary men who warmly acknowledged his kindness were Landor and the first Lord Lytton.