

D. Good May 27th 1801.

Dear Sir,

This day I rec^d your's of April 29th conveying the enclosed. What the mistake may be, or the cause of this delay, I know not; & I mention it by way of justification for myself. Do or not apt to be truly in acknowledging such kind expressions, as you favour contains. I leave this post on Friday noon? & hope to arrive at Barbours on the Saturday next following. We have had a great deal of sickness & death in our family: one of my boys is ill now, but, we hope, getting well; nor have I been wholly free from indisposition myself. Mr. P. & your family, I trust, are in health. When Pitt fought his duel, how many wretches, among whom you will recollect one, his death was by his antagonist! Yet, you see, the affair has been ordered much better by the great superintendent of the universe. Men he would have been sanctified as a martyr; now he is equally directed of his iniquitous power, & is gradually rising into obloquy with his followers & respect for all mankind. I remain ever your's very sincerely
Gilbert Wakefield

8 o'clock
NY 30
1851

1 Penny
Mr. Phillips Bookseller
No. 77 St. Pauls Church-yard
London

3400
0-10-6

D. Gaol May 27th. 1801

Dear Sir

This day I recd yours of April 29th conveying the enclosed. What the mistake may be, or the cause of the delay, I know not; & I mention it by way of justification for myself, who am not apt to be tardy in acknowledging such kind expressions, as your favour contains. I leave this gaol on Friday mornng & hope to arrive at Hackney on the Saturday sennight following. We have had a great deal of mishap & death in our family; one of my boys is ill now, but, we hope, getting well; nor have I been wholly free from indisposition myself. Mrs P. & your family, I trust, are in health. When Pitt fought his duel, too many wisht, among whom you will recollect one, his demolition by his antagonist! Yet, you see, the affair has been ordered much better by the great superintendant of the universe. Then he would have been sanctified as a martyr; now he is equally divested of his iniquitous power, & is gradually sinking into oblivion with his favourers, & neglect from all mankind. I remain ever yours very sincerely

Gilbert Wakefield

Mr. Phillips, Bookseller,
No. 71. St. Paul's Church Yard
London.

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Gilbert Wakefield (1756-1801), English classical scholar and politician, inveterate enemy of William Pitt and Richard Porson, died four months after the date of this letter, which was written from Dorchester jail where he had been imprisoned for two years after conviction for seditious libel. While in prison he corresponded on classical subjects with Charles James Fox. His light-hearted criticism of Porson's Hecuba, was avenged by the latter's famous toast: "Gilbert Wakefield; what's Hecuba to him or he to Hecuba?"

(Collection of Captain F. L. Pleadwell)