

The letters of John Chubb in the Archive of the Heritage Centre, Taunton:
Series 3C

Transcripts of C19 Chubb family letters stored in Emails at the Museum
Transcribed 2004-7

Text edited by Tony Woolrich

14/10/2020

1

This is a translated extract from *Lettres Persanne*, or *Persian Letters*, of Montesquieu 1721, probably by Jonathan Chubb.

Persian Letters is a literary work, published in 1721, by Charles de Secondat, baron de Montesquieu, recounting the experiences of two fictional Persian noblemen, Usbek and Rica, who are travelling through France. In 1711 Usbek leaves his seraglio in Isfahan to take the long journey to France, accompanied by his young friend Rica. ... During the trip and their long stay in Paris (1712–1720), they comment, in letters exchanged with friends and mullahs, on numerous aspects of Western, Christian society, particularly French politics, and Moors... See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persian_Letters for much more detail.

OBSERVATIONS

The Laws were outrageous, in Europe those who kill themselves. They are made, if you allow the expression, to dye a second time: they are scandalously dragged thro the streets, noted with infamy; & their goods are confiscated. It appears to me Ibben, that these Laws are very unjust. Then I am oppressed with anguish, calamity, contempt, why they prevent me from puting an end to my misery? & cruelly deprive one of a remedy that is within my power?

Why do they chuse that I should labour for a Society of w'h I no longer consent to be a member? That, in spite of my Inclination, I should keep a contract w'h was made without my knowledge? Society is founded on a mutual Advantage: what, therefore, should hinder my renouncing it when it becomes burdensome: Life has been given to me as a favour: then, when it ceases to be such I may surrender it: the cause is extinct: th' effect should also end.

Would the Prince that I continue his subject when I derive no Benefit from the Subjection? Can my country require the unequal lot of their Utility & my dispair. Would God, different from other Benefactors, condem me to receive Favours that oppress me? Taught to submit to the Lows while I live under their protection: but can they bind me after Death?

Yet, some will say, you disturb the order of Providence. God has united your Soul to your Body: & you separate it: you oppose, then his Designs: & resist Him.

What would this convince? Do I disturb the order of Providence when I change the Modifications of Matter, & from into a Cube & Bowl, w'h the first laws of motion (ie the laws of creating preservation) had made a globular?

No, I, doubless, make use only of a right that has been granted &, that in that sense, I may, at pleasure, disturb all Nature, without their being able to prove that one oppose Providence.

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When my Soul shall be separated from my Body, will there be less order & arrangement in the Universe? Do they fancy that this combination would be less perfect, & less depending on general laws? That the world would have left any thing? And that the works of God would be less Grand, or rather less Immense?

Can it be imagined that my body become a mite, an ear of corn, a clod, w'd be converted into a production of nature less worthy of her? And that my Soul, disengaged from every thing terrestrial, w'd become less sublime?

These idea, my dear Ibben, have no other Source than our pride. We discern not our littleness, &, in spite of it, w'd be esteemed to figure it in the universe, & to be an important object of it. We conceit that the annihilation of such perfect Being as ourselves would degrade Nature: & we conceive not that a man more or less in the world = nay = I may affirm that all men together, a hundred millions of heads like ours, are only a subtle diminutive Atom, which God perceives only on account of th'immensity of his knowledge.

Usbek a son ami Ibben. A. Imirae

Les Coix furieuses en Europe contre eux-mêmes. On les fait mourir: pour ainsi dire, une seconde fois: ils sont traînés indignement par les rues: on les note d'indignement par les rues; on les note d'infamie; on confisque leurs biens.

Il me paroît, Ibben, que ces loix sont bien injustes: Quand je suis accablé de douleurs, de misères, de misères, pourquoi veut-on m'ôter de douleurs; de misères, de misères, pourquoi veut-on m'empêcher de mettre fin à mes peines, & me priver cruellement d'un remède qui est en mes mains?

Pourquoi veut-on que Je travaille pour une société dont.. Je consens de n'être plus? Que fienne, malgré moi, une convention qui s'est faite sans moi? La société est fondée sur un avantage mutuel mais, lorsqu'elle me devient onéreuse, qui m'empêche d'y renoncer? La vie m'a été donnée comme une faveur; Je puis donc la rendre, lorsqu'elle ne l'est plus: la carence cesse; l'eset doit donc cesser aussi. Le prince veut-il que Je sois son sujet, quand je ne retire point les avantages de la sujétion? Mes conceitoyens peuvent-ils demander ce portage inique de leur utilité. Je ne désespère point? Dieu, différent de tous les bienfaiteurs, vent-il me condamner à recevoir des grâces qui m'accablent?

J suis obligé de suivre les loix, quand Je vis sous les loix: mais quand Je ne vis plus, peuvent-elles me lier encore?

Mais, dira-t-on, vous troublez l'ordre de la providence. Dieu a unvotre âme avec votre corps; & vous l'en séparez: vous vous opposez donc à ses desseins, & vous oui refisrez.

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Que veut dire cela? Troubleai-je l'ordre de la providence, lorsque je change les modifications de la matiere, & que je rends quarrie une Corle que les premieres loix du mouvement, ce'est-a-dire les loix de la creation & de la conservation, avoient faite toned & Non, sans doute: Je ne fais qu'ufen du droit que m'a ete dome: J, en ce sens, Je puis troubler a ma fantaisie toute la nature, sans que l'on puisse dire que Jem oppose a la providence.

Lorsque mon ame sera separee de mon corps, y aura til moins d'ordre & moins d'arrangement dans l'univers?

Croyez vous que cette cominasion soit moins parfaite. & moins dependante de loix generales? Que le monde y ait perdu quelque chose? & que les ouvrages de dieu soient moins grands, ou plutot moins immenses?

Pensez-vous que mon corps, de venu un epi de bled, un ver un gazon; soit change en un ouvrage de la nature moins digne d'elle? & que mon ame. degree de tout ce qu'elle avoit deteste, soit devenue moins sublime?

Tous ces idies, mon cher ibben, n'ont d'autre source que notre orgueil. Nous nesentons point notre petitesse; & malgre qu'on en ait, nous voulons etre comptes dans l'univers, y figurer, & y etre un objet important. Nous nous imaginons quell anihilation d'un etre aussi parfait que nous degraderoit toute la nature: & nous ne concevons pas qu'un homme de plus ou de moins dans le monde; que dis-je? Tous les homes unsemble, cent millions de tites comme la notre, ne sont qu'un atome subtil & delie, que dieu n'apperçoit qu'a cause de l'immensite de ses connoissances.

2

MEMORANDUM

Editorial note: This was written by Hammond Chubb and is a valuable account of the family's origins TW

The blue paper, marked No 1, carries back our family pedigree so far as we are able: right to a Jonathon Chubb, who was born (as we found from the old book on the 5 Nov 1715, and in early life came to the town of Bridgewater, where he was married, and subsequently lived. He was, from all I have heard, a man of very peculiar character, of very strong wit, and very reserved and no record can now be discovered in regard to his parentage or where he was born. He was connected in some way (probably a cousin) of the Rev'd Mr. Hammond (after whom I am named) who in 1787 succeeded to the estate of Charlton, and assumed the name of Lucy, inasmuch as my grandfather (born 1706) was for some years regarded as next successor to the Charlton Estate, in the event of this Mr. Hammond, who was then

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unmarried, leaving no heir. He married however very soon after his succession, and left several children.

The name of Chubb is known to have had representatives in many places besides Dorchester – Bristol. Frome. Misterton. Crewkerne. Salisbury and Marlborough. Malmesbury and I have understood (though as the 13th child I have long outlived three older members through whom tradition came down) that our family at one time possessed certain rights, no doubt long since extinct, connected with certain of the College Buildings at Winchester.

Apart from a kind of family tradition that my great grandfather was in some way connected with Dorchester, there was a later impression (strengthened I think by enquiries set on foot by my eldest brother John not long before he died – of which however we have no records) that there was a connection with the family of our name at Marlborough (?Malmesbury).

Of this family I am able to give in confidence, the copy of a pedigree – papers No. 2 and 3 (Roll sketch) and there is just a hope that we may be able to find that at some time in it we may come in. There is for instance a certain Matthew Chubb, on Sheet No 3, who is then left out in the cold. It would almost seem however that he was of Salisbury.

Our difficulty is I know what is the best course to take – the main point at present being to ascertain where Jonathan Chubb was born – the date of his birth (as we find is boldly stated in an old book) being the 5th Nov. 1715. We have some time ago, written to several Clergymen, but generally without much success – on one or two occasions they did not answer. There are I believe Agents who undertake this kind of business, but I must not go to expense, though of course I would gladly pay all Enquiry fees and Expenses.

If, for instance, I wrote to Salisbury, is there any Central Authority? There must be many churches.

3

TRANSCRIPTION OF SUMMARY CONTAINED IN FILE CONTAINING
CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE LATE 1680's

Home Lea
Bickley, Kent
December 1894

These old letters came into my possession through my Aunt Lucy Chubb, who formerly lived with me. Though many of them are not dated, they evidently belong to the same period – the latter part of the 17th century (1680 to 1690)

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For the most part they are letters of no importance and I have no knowledge why or by whom they were originally preserved. In the hope that they should reveal in some degree our family connection with the Morley's and who they are (for I believe that my great grandmother was a Miss Morley, and my father's Christian name was Morley) I have repaired them as well as I was able, that they may be further preserved.

The letters are from:

1. Mr. H. C. Lutterell of Dunster.
2. Mary – presumably Mrs. Lutterell
3. Mr. John Morley of North Petherton
4. E. Bowyer of Spelsbury)
5. Nath. Blinham

Both of whom address Mrs. J. Morley as "dear Sister"

6. A second Mr. Lutterell, whose initials are indistinct.

7. William – son of Mr. John Morley.

(In later pencil – but not the one above – this letter is dated 1653, and he was married at this time.)

8. Grace Tynte of Halswell, and

9. Lord Stirline

From these it appears that,

Mrs. Sarah Morley was a cousin of the Lutterells. She is always so addressed by them, and in a letter from - Lutterell congratulating her husband John Morley on his marriage and the birth of a son, the expression occurred "now I may call you Cousin."

She, Mrs. Sarah Morley, married John Morley of North Petherton, Mrs. Morley.

Mrs. John Morley's maiden name appears to have been either Blinham or Bowyer both of whom address her as "dear Sister." One must probably have been a brother-in-law: indeed there is the possibility that both may have been brothers-in-law.

The Morley's had children – how many does not appear: but there was evidently a Son – (?as his letter is dated 1653). William Morley and Kitty or Katie Morley – (I had a sister named Kitty).

John Morley died in London in January 1694 – and, Mrs. Lutterell offered to take charge of Katie Morley, by way of helping the Widow – but whether this was carried out or not there is nothing to show.

Hammond Chubb

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Theyoungest son but one, and sole surviving son of the late Morley Chubb of Bridgwater, Somersetshire.

4

Written on paper with a beautiful engraving of the Entrance Gateway St. Johns College, Cambridge at the heading.

This is in the hand Arthur Chubb (1824-1852) 5th son of Morley Chubb. Admitted a pensioner. (age 19) at Pembroke College Cambridge, June 23, 1843. He was educated at Christ's Hospital. He Matriculated: Michaelmas. 1843; and awarded a B.A. in 1848. He died Sept. 14, 1852, at Cirencester.

Undated but the visit took place Wednesday 25th & Thursday 26th October 1843

My dear Kit,

I am at last settled in my rooms and am about as comfortable as I can be, only they have not stopped the cracks round the door yet; I have ordered a green baize Curtain to be put up like the one Farmer Elliott had at Gravesend, you know it – Then I shall be snug – I have just got rid of a cold I caught. I suppose coming up here and with it the (? word) also gets better – the weather has been gloriously fine for the last few days – perhaps that is a great deal to do with it. Yesterday was superb – today there is a very cold wind – By the way I may as well tell you there is still a shirt without any bottoms in it.

The Queen arrived yesterday but I suppose I must first tell you the preparations which had been made. At the entrance of the Town just by Dr. Haviland's house (the Gov. knows where that is) was erected a large handsome triumphal arch of wood covered with laurel & roses and dahlias and all kinds of flowers & pots for illuminating it. All the houses along Trumpington Street and King's Parade (in front of King's College) up to St. John's Coll. (of which there is a sketch at the beginning) were decorated with laurel and flowers and flags with arches of laurel and flowers across the street from house to house – a very pretty sight indeed. The Yeomanry Cavalry went out to form a guard of honour and escort her into the town where she arrived at 2 o'clock. The Mayor and Common Council of the town escorted her to the gate of Trinity Coll: there she was received by the Master who is the Vice Chancellor conducted to Trinity Lodge, where there State apartments, being cheered to an amazing extent all the way through the town. The whole of the University in full academical dress (all the undergraduates being in a gentleman's full dress with white neck cloths, bands caps and gowns) assembled in the great Quadrangle at Trinity to try and squeeze into the Hall where an address from the University was presented. Most of our College especially the Dons stood at the gate of the college which is one of the first she passed and cheered her no

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end – though we were standing close to the gate we had a fight to get into the College the rush of the crowd being so great – where I was saved from being carried away by clinging to our Tutor Arlett in a very unceremonious manner, then the fun of running through the Coll: up the back streets to get to Trinity in time to hear the address, Tutors, Fellows and Undergraduates, all racing and tearing away like mad until we got into the crowd again when we formed a body and forced our way to the Gates of Trin. getting trampled upon of course by the Soldiers' horses and as dirty as can well be. We were told to perform a procession to go into the Hall and when about 1/3rd of the University had got in, we were informed that all was over, the hall by that time was crammed almost to suffocation – Those outside not liking the trick of waiting about an hour to hear nothing tried to push into the hall, which would hold no more, and those inside tried to get out so that there just was a "scrimmage" and I being just at the portico was in the middle of it – The Queen happened just then to step out from the Lodge into her carriage and the men running to cheer her left off the row.

She went to attend Service at King's College Chapel which had been fitted up for her – a throne being placed either on the altar or exactly in front with its back to it, I don't know which but I have heard a great noise about it: service over, she returned and slept at Trinity Lodge – I must leave off to dress – for Dick has just come to say the Queen is expected here – Now I can finish – I have just been pushing about through the crowd having a last look at her and the Prince (by the way they did not stop at our College as we expected) they ride in an open carriage certainly with a small guard of honour, although people chiefly gownsmen run along with the handle of the carriage door in their hand as close to them as the wheels will (?allow?) it – Prince Albert wears the flaming red gown and black velvet cap of a D.C.L. which was conferred upon him publicly this morning in the Senate Houses, looking very much like one of his own footmen on a rainy day. Wherever they alighted, if there happened to be no carpet laid, the gownsmen have invariably put down their gowns.

I think this letter is long enough to occupy you a week to decipher so I shall leave off, not without sending my best love to all and a kiss to you, Mother, Aunt, Emma, Carry etc.

So believe me my dear old Kit
Your brother
Arthur Chubb

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At 1.10 pm my sixth child a boy was born strong & healthy as the others, he has a great deal of light hair

1862

Descriptions of "John Burland" the baby 10 ½ months. A little pale faced boy with very light hair and plenty of it, he is a healthy child has six teeth well through and can almost walk alone pushing a chair as well.

1863

Description of my Baby John Burland age 2 years. Still very delicate in appearance but not so in reality he has a very small face and is tall and slight in frame but not thin – he can say almost anything and is just at the most engaging age – he delights in my dear Husband in his many acquirements new every day.

Disease – Measles 1862

We are all so fond of him he gives so little trouble his principle amusement is pretending to be a clergyman and in draw without however not much aptitude at present. A moderate height. Diseases Measles Hooping Cough Chicken Pox (badly)

1868

Character of my dear child John Burland age 7 years

A curious child he amuses himself always by drawing Churches with pen and ink and begins to do these very neatly he likes to fancy himself a Clergyman he is a quick observing little fellow and a very pleasant companion looks delicate but is never ill

1869

No character recorded

1870

Character of my dear child John Burland 9 ¼ years

A delicate looking little fellow but seldom ill he is a sharp witted boy and rather forward in his studies he has never been away from here to school but I am hoping to get him admitted with Merchant Taylor school. In appearances he is pale has a longer face than the others and his eyes are nearly together

1871

Character of my dear boy John Burland 10 ½ years

A very clever boy and a very pleasant companion to me or to person but when he is in society he is down right troublesome nothing seems to silence him I suppose he will become more modest with age he is very likely to make a good scholer for he is very in dustrious and always ready for his evening work. In appearance he is very pale and his eyelids set pink

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without any tendency to weak eyes I am always afraid of his health yet he is never ill his features are good and at times he looks very delicate and nice.

1872

No characters written

1873

Character of my dear boy John Burland Aged 12

Here is my little scholar quick and studious getting on well at school and much liked by his masters he is a gently boy and very likeable. Delicate to look at but seldom ailing his great fancy is for drawing and he certainly manages interiors and railway stations wonderfully. All the boys agree famously that they are equals in capacity a little leading now and then but no quarrels.

A tolerable height for his age.

The last date of the written character put in the Diary of 1876 I found written in pencil by John himself.

Character of my dear boy John Burland aged 16 years 11 months.

A dear sweet affectionate boy with pudding face handsome figure always does what he can for the good of others without thinking of himself –

Diseases behind and Nettlerash

J.C.

Dear John.

How are you Morris sends his love to you Did you like the Ride I shall Be so glad when you come home kitty has got the rash Arthur sends his love to you when is the warminster faire I suppose it will be soon Do you [no] know any [of] of the boys...

I am your affectionate Sister
Mary Chubb