

Christian den Ottendes og Caroline Amalies forbindelser med Elizabeth Fry og andre kvækere

Af Finn Friis

I

For en del år siden belyste Bjørn Kornerup i *Kirkehistoriske Samlinger* forskellige sider af kvækeres kontakt med og virksomhed i Danmark i det attende og nittende århundrede.

Afhandlingen „Kvæker-Propaganda i Danmark og Norge i ældre tid” (1) beskriver navnlig nordmanden Christopher Meidels aktivitet og hans genvordigheder i begyndelsen af det attende århundrede. I en anden afhandling: „To Kvæker-Besøg i Danmark i det 19. Århundrede” er der dels tale om den fremtrædende engelske kvæker *Thomas Shillitoes* besøg i årene 1821. og 1824, dels om det besøg, som den kendte filantrop og pædagog *Elizabeth Fry* (1780-1845) og hendes broder *Joseph John Gurney* (1788-1847) i 1841 aflagde i København (2). Ved denne lejlighed offentliggjorde Kornerup bl. a. en række breve, som de to søskende i årene 1840-42 skrev til kong Christian VIII, dronning Caroline Amalie og andre danske personligheder. Han refererede også den omtale af besøget, som findes i Elizabeth Fry's JOURNAL og anden britisk kvækerlitteratur.

Under forarbejderne til udgivelsen af Christian VIIIs dagbøger og optegnelser (3) er jeg stødt på forskelligt materiale, som Kornerup formentlig ikke har kendt men som jeg finder det naturligt at fremdrage som supplement til det af ham offentliggjorte.

I første omgang gennemgik jeg en halv snes breve, som Caroline Amalie i tidsrummet 1822-43 skrev til Elizabeth Fry, og som jeg fandt i de engelske kvækeres hovedkvarter *Friends House* i London. De er indsat i et album, der indeholder Elizabeth Fry's samling af breve fra berømte personer — et album, der gik i arv til hendes datter og senere er overgået til biblioteket i *Friends House*.

1. K. S. 6. Række Bind VI, s. 216-271.

2. K. S. 7. Række, Bind I, s. 109-171.

3. Bind II, 1. halvbind, 1973; 2. halvbind (under trykning).

Senere har jeg – med Rigsarkivarens tilladelse – gennemgået den anden side af denne korrespondance. I Kongehusarkivet findes der 13 breve fra Elizabeth Fry til Caroline Amalie, som denne selv opbevarede til sin død i 1881 men som derefter, efter hendes bestemmelse, skulle overgå til Geheimearkivet. Da der i flere tilfælde er tale om breve i direkte tilslutning til de breve fra C. A., jeg fremdrog i London, måtte det være naturligt at medtage dem i den korrespondance, som nu offentliggøres.

II

Indledningsvis kan det nævnes, at der i Dagbøgernes Bind I, der blev udgivet i 1943, findes en kort omtale af prins Christian Frederiks første (åbenbart ganske overfladiske) kontakt med kvækere (4).

Bad Pyrmont i fyrstendømmet Waldeck har gennem flere århundreder været et af de tyske kvækeres samlingssteder.

Søndag den 31. juli 1803 overværede den unge prins under et kurophold i Bad Pyrmont en del af en kvækergudstjeneste. Han skriver selv (5):

„Jeg besøgte idag Quækermenigheden i deres Kirke for Enden af een af Alleerne. En heldøret (6) Quæker skildte i Døren Mandfolkene og Fruentimmerne fra hinanden. I Kirken beholdt endeel Hatten paa. En Quæker talte og syntes at betænke sig imellem hvert Ord; i det mindste pauseerte han saa meget, at man ej kunne følge ham.

En slig Tale skulle man ej troe kunne tiene til Opbyggelse. Quækerne syntes dog at være det. Frøk. Driesen (7), der var med, loe, og da en gammel Kone, der sad bag ved hende, stødte med Foden paa Bænken, og hun drejede sig om, truede hun med Fingeren. Vi holdt det ej længere end et Quarteer ud. Siden skal en Kone være staaet op og have sagt: hvo som haver Øren at høre med, han høre, og en Quæker skal have talt ret godt. Forskiellige af Brøndgiesterne vare der.”

4. Christian VIIIs Dagbøger og Optegnelser, Bd. I, 1943, s. 185-187, 231-232.

5. op. cit. s. 185-186.

6. „Heldøret”: betegnelse for en person, der hykler eller i det ydre viser hellighed eller verdensfjernhed.

7. Datter af en russisk general.

Et par dage senere omtales i dagbogen et besøg i det nærliggende Friedenthal, „hvor der er en Colonie Quækere, der fornemmeligen giver sig af med at forfærdige Knive, Gafler og marmoreeret Papir. Deres Industrie er interessant at see”.

Da prinsen det følgende år påny var i Pyrmont, nævner han i sin dagbog (22. august 1804), at „Et heelt Selskab gik idag til Quækerkirken”. Selv fandt han det åbenbart ikke ulejligheden værd at gå med. (Han foretrak måske en spadseretur med den smukke friherreinde Charlotte von Scheele, som han var meget indtaget i!)

– Helt anderledes var situationen, da Christian Frederik og Caroline Amalie på deres treårige udenlandsrejse opholdt sig i London i maj-juli 1822.

Thomas Shillitoe havde, som ovenfor nævnt, netop været i København, hvor han blev meget venligt modtaget af kong Frederik VI og dronning Marie Sophie Frederikke og hvor han besøgte en række fængsler (8).

I sin dagbog (9) fortæller prinsen følgende om sin og Caroline Amalies kontakt med kvækerne i London:

„Mandag den 10. Juni (1822). Med Prinsessen taget hen til British and Foreign School, som forestaaes af Quækerne; der giort Kendskab med Allen (10), bekjendt Missionair, der har indrettet Lancasterskoler (11) i Rusland og med Mad. Frey, som har saa stor Fortieneste af Fangernes Forbedring. Med sand Fornøielse seet den i Skolen herskende Orden og bemærket, hvor godt de vare underviste i Religionens Sandheder, ej efter Cathekisme (for ej at udelukke dem, der ej høre til den anglikanske Kirke) men efter et Udtog af Bibelen (ogsaa indf. i Skolerne i Rusland).”

Om denne sammenkomst skriver William Allen (12):

8. K. S. 7. Række, Bind I, s. 120 ff.

9. Bind II, 2. halvbind, s. 471.

10. Kvækeren William Allen (1770-1843), kemiker og filantrop.

11. Joseph Lancaster (1778-1838) var foregangsmand ved oprettelsen af skoler for fattige børn i London og andetsteds; her anvendtes bl. a. „den indbyrdes undervisningsmetode”, som Frederik VI interesserede sig særligt for.

12. *Life of William Allen with Selections from his Correspondence*, London 1846. Her omtales også, at W. A. den 16. juni traf prinsen ved et møde i *The Royal Society* i Greenwich.

„Sixth Month 10th. To town with my sister, A. H. and Maria Bradshaw; Elizabeth Fry and her husband were waiting at Plough Court, and they, with M. B. and I, went to Borough Road School, to meet the Prince and Princess of Denmark and the Baron de Staël. The Princess is a very superior person – affable and intelligent. They went through the details of the school and seemed pleased; they staid over an hour and half.”

Besøget i skolen nævnes også kort i Elizabeth Frys memoirer (13).

Et notat af 1. juli viser, at Caroline Amalie aflagde besøg i Plashet House hos Elizabeth Fry („I was just set off for town, when I had to return to receive the Princess of Denmark; it was a satisfactory visit . . .”)

Af særlig interesse for prinseparret var formentlig det besøg, de aflagde i Newgatefængslet og som i dagbogen omtales således (14):

„Lørdag 22. Juni. Med Prindsessen besøgt Newgatefængslet og funden de quindelige Fanger ordentlige, reenlige og sædelige, en Følge af Mad. Frey's og Quækernes Omsorg. Fængslet er slet indrettet, saa at de sove og spise og arbejde i samme Værelse. Kiøbt af deres Arbejde. Mad. Frey var fraværende.”

Det var arbejdet med en forbedring af fængslerne og navnlig af de kvindelige fangers forhold, som i årene efter 1813 (og særlig fra 1816) optog en stor del af Elizabeth Frys tid og kræfter og som efterhånden gjorde hendes navn bekendt i mange lande.

Talrige bemærkninger og skildringer i Christian Frederiks dagbøger og optegnelser – både fra guvernørtiden i Odense og under udenlandsrejserne – vidner om, at fængslernes tilstand og fangeres behandling også havde Christian Frederiks særlige interesse. Det var disse problemer, som var et af hovedmotiverne til Elizabeth Frys besøg i Danmark 1841 og som behandles i hendes brevveksling med Caroline Amalie.

– Den 21. juli 1822 forlod prinseparret England for at rejse til Danmark via Frankrig, Belgien, Holland og Tyskland. Et brev fra Caroline Amalie, dateret 8. november og gengivet som nr. 1, viser,

13. *Memoirs of the Life of Elizabeth Fry with Extracts from her Journal and Letters*. Edited by two of her daughters. Second edition, London 1848. (Se vol. I, s. 406.)

14. Bd. II, 2. halvbind, s. 476.

at Elizabeth Fry havde sendt afskedsgaver til prinsessen og til hendes hofdame frøken Urne og medgivet dem en gave til dronning Marie Sophie Frederikke i København.

III

Da Thomas Shillitoe i august-september 1824 påny var i København, blev han meget venligt modtaget af Caroline Amalie på Sorgenfri (15). Han fortæller selv, at prinsessen underholdt sig livligt med ham om religiøse spørgsmål, „navnlig om søndagens misbrug”. Det var en stor lettelse for konversationen, at hun selv talte engelsk og under sit besøg i England havde truffet flere kvækere. Shillitoe forærede hende et eksemplar af Hugh Turford: *Grounds of a Holy Life* (16). Caroline Amalie fik arrangeret en sammenkomst med Frederik VI's datter Caroline (gift med prins Frederik Ferdinand), som påtog sig at overgive et brev fra Shillitoe til kongen. I et af Elizabeth Frys breve (nedenfor trykt som nr. 3) takker hun C. A. for hendes venlighed mod Shillitoe.

– Det er klart, at Elizabeth Frys stærke religiøse overbevisning, hendes overtalelsesevne og hendes uforfærdede men samtidig praktiske optræden, set på baggrund af det billede, kronprinsparret fik af de samfundsonder, hun kæmpede imod, må have gjort et stærkt indtryk på Caroline Amalie. Både hun og Christian Frederik havde på deres lange udenlandsrejser vist alvorlig interesse for sociale og pædagogiske problemer. Således havde de i Schweiz bl. a. under samvær med fremtrædende personligheder som pædagogerne Pestalozzi, Fellenberg og Père Girard (Fribourg) samlet indtryk og erfaringer, der kunne udnyttes efter hjemkomsten til Danmark. Disse indtryk bidrog til at anspore Caroline Amalie til en livslang, personlig indsats for asylsagen, og det er naturligt, at hendes virksomhed på dette område omtales i korrespondancen med Elizabeth Fry (brevene nr. 4-6).

Allerede under det første samvær i 1822 var der utvivlsomt

15. Se herom K. S. 7. Række Bind I, s. 120 ff (navnlig s. 124).

16. I Kongens Håndbibliotek findes en række publikationer af fremtrædende kvækerforfattere som William Barclay, William Sewel og Heinrich Tuke. Sewels bog har dedikationen „Respectfully presented to the King of Denmark by Thomas Shillitoe”, medens andre er forsynet med en tilsvarende dedikation til dronning Marie Sophie Frederikke.

mellem Caroline Amalie og Elizabeth Fry skabt gensidig respekt, sympati og tillid. Dette bekræftes gennem den korrespondance, som gengives i det følgende.

De fleste af brevene er imidlertid skrevet i tiden omkring det vigtige besøg, som Elizabeth Fry sammen med sin broder J. J. Gurney 1841 aflagde i Danmark, efter at de (som det ses af brevvekslingen) var blevet opmuntret dertil. Besøget fandt sted to år efter at Christian VIII i 1839 var kommet på tronen.

I sin afsluttende bedømmelse af søskendeparrets ophold i København skrev Bjørn Kornerup (17): „Førte Elizabeth Frys og hendes broders besøg i Danmark end ikke til så store resultater som de kunde have ønsket, er det dog vel værd at mindes.”

Det kan nok være vanskeligt uden dybtgående studier at dokumentere, hvor meget dette besøg helt konkret kom til at betyde, men i hvert fald kan man dog nævne følgende:

Elizabeth Frys og hendes broders personligheder gjorde utvivlsomt indtryk på adskillige af de danske, som de ved denne lejlighed – ikke mindst takket være en usædvanlig indsats fra kongefamiliens side – fik kontakt med.

Et hovedformål med besøget var at stimulere bestræbelserne for *reformer i det danske fængselsvæsen*, hvor der endnu herskede en forældet og delvis umenneskelig praksis. Men desuden havde søskendeparret til hensigt – med udgangspunkt i J. J. Gurneys personlige iagttagelser på de vestindiske øer, som kongeparret allerede i 1840 var blevet orienteret om – at vække interesse for en mere effektiv dansk indsats i kampen for *slaveriets afskaffelse*, på hvilket område man nu kunne henvise til en række britiske erfaringer. I hvilken grad dette materiale faktisk har bidraget til at fremskynde danske reformer skal jeg ikke her prøve at analysere. Men i hvert fald må det have gjort indtryk på Christian VIII og hans omgivelser, at sagen blev rejst både skriftligt og mundtligt af en personlighed som Gurney – uden ambitioner og fordomme.

Med hensyn til forholdene i de danske fængsler, som Elizabeth Fry og J. J. Gurney personligt havde lejlighed til ret indgående at stifte bekendtskab med, er det en kendsgerning, at myndighederne i de følgende år faktisk gennemførte forskellige reformer,

som kongeparret lagde vægt på snarest at fortælle Elizabeth Fry om (18).

Det lykkedes også under og efter besøget at få samlet en aktiv kreds af privatpersoner, som ville gøre en personlig indsats for fangerne og de løsladte, og grunden blev lagt for oprettelsen af Det danske Fængselselskab.

I den følgende tid bidrog Elizabeth Fry gang efter gang efter evne til at stimulere den i Danmark vakte interesse ved at gøre opmærksom på reformforsøg og resultater både i England og andetsteds og stille praktiske erfaringer til rådighed. En af de ledende mænd i reformarbejdet i Danmark, C. N. David (19), nød under et ophold i England godt af hendes råd og vejledning (20).

Den 14/11 1843 (brev nr. 22) fortæller Caroline Amalie om de fortsatte bestræbelser for at forbedre den religiøse omsorg for fangerne – et spørgsmål, som Elizabeth Fry under besøget i 1841 havde vist særlig interesse for.

I Kornerups afhandling og tillæggene dertil (21) skildres også et særligt problem, som Elizabeth Fry og J. J. Gurney havde lejlighed til at stifte bekendtskab med, nemlig *den religiøse intolerance*, specielt over for baptisterne, som bl. a. førte til, at de to brødre Mønster, som var ledere af den baptistiske sekt i Danmark, i længere tid var indespærret i Københavns Domhus. Det lykkedes – vel ikke mindst på grund af det britiske søkendepars aktive interesse for sagen – at få behandlingen af de to baptister mildnet, og senere blev de løsladt. Denne sag berøres ligeledes i brevvekslingen.

Også mere generelt søgte Elizabeth Fry og hendes broder under opholdet i Danmark at virke for anerkendelse af *trofrihed i Danmark*, ligesom Gurney i sin skildring af forholdene i Dansk Vestindien gjorde sig til talsmand for, at forbudet mod methodistiske missionærers virksomhed i den danske koloni burde ophæves.

De to sidste af de nedenfor trykte breve (nr. 21 og 22) stammer fra 1843. Den 14. november 1843 skrev Caroline Amalie til Elizabeth Fry:

18. Se navnlig brevene fra 1842.

19. Nationaløkonomen og politiker C. N. David (1793-1874) blev 1845 fængselsdirektør og 1848 overinspektør for fængselsvæsenet.

20. Se brev nr. 16.

21. K. S. 7. Række, Bind I, s. 155 ff.

“C’est avec bien de la peine que nous venons d’apprendre votre grave indisposition, suite des fatigues de vos voyages. Puisse nous apprendre bien tôt que vous soyez remise et en état de continuer votre activité charitable. Je pense bien souvent à vous avec tendresse, et jamais je n’oublierai votre chère visite à Copenhague”.

Den danske dronning og den engelske kvæker, hvis venskab korrespondancen vidner om, kom ikke mere til at mødes. Elizabeth Fry døde den 12. oktober 1845, Caroline Amalie først i 1881.

Brevveksling mellem Caroline Amalie og Elizabeth Fry (1822-43)
1. 1822, 8. november. Caroline Amalie til Elizabeth Fry (22)

Madame!

Il y a quelque temps que j’ai dépaqueté tous mes effets arrivés d’Angleterre, et j’ai remis à notre Reine le cadeau que vous m’avez confié. Elle en est sensiblement touchée et me charge de vous en remercier mille fois. Combien j’aurais désiré que cette angelique femme eut pu faire votre connaissance et j’ose me flatter, Madame, que vous auriez fait la sienne avec plaisir.

Veillez accepter ici mes remerciemens tardifs, mais pas moins sincères, de toutes les choses que vous m’avez envoyé à Dover. J’ai bien admiré en contemplant les jolies vues de la Suisse, qui redoublent de valeur pour moi en songeant que c’est à vous que je les dois.

Mlle d’Urne a reçu avec transport le beau livre que vous lui envoyez je dois être l’interprète de sa plus vive reconnaissance. Elle, ainsi que moi, penserons toute notre vie à la visite à Plashet.

Le Prince m’a chargé de le rappeler à votre souvenir et de vous remercier sincèrement de tous les vœux que vous avez bien voulu former pour nous deux, et dont nous espérons toujours nous rendre plus dignes’

Mille compliments à Monsieur Frey et à tous vos aimables enfants surtout à l’aînée de vos filles.

22. Dette brev blev sendt gennem den danske chargé d’affaires i London, H. A. Clausewitz og afleveret den 5. december.

Avec une vive admiration je me signe Madame

Copenhagen
8 Novembre
1822

Votre
devouée
Caroline P. de Denmark

2. 1822, 23. november. Elizabeth Fry til Caroline Amalie

Plasht House, 11th Month 23d 1822

To the Princess Royal of Denmark,
Dear and respected friend,

Allow me to call thee so, for such I feel thee, as thou art truly both loved and respected by me. According to thy kind wish expressed when we had the pleasure of thy company here, I take up my pen to inform thee that upon the first of this month, through the tender mercy of my God, I was safely delivered of a sweet boy, and to add to our cause of joy and thanksgiving, my dear daughter Cresswell had one also born on the same day, so that within a few hours a son and grandson were added to our family, we have both of us with our infants been going on well with some exception in the early part of my confinement from my general delicate constitution.

I have often thought of thy kind visit with deep interest; and strong desires for thy welfare and preservation are caused in my heart to the great good Shepherd "who sleepeth not by day, nor slumbereth by night" mayst thou find *Him* to be the God of peace to thy soul, continually guiding thee by his counsel, helping thee by his spirit, comforting thee by his love and eventually through his unmerited mercy in Christ Jesus receiving thee into glory.

I also feel much interested for the Prince Royal. May you both be encouraged in every good word and work and may these words of Paul in the 15th Chapter of the Corinthians 58th verse stimulate us all to be diligent in promoting every work of Righteousness "Be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord".

It would give me great pleasure and satisfaction to hear of your welfare and as I feel it may be asking too much to request a letter from thyself perhaps the lady who accompanied thee here (to whom I beg to be kindly remembered) would let us know some particulars respecting you and all the family and it would be pleasant to learn how your Prisons, schools and other works of charity go on. I should also be glad to be informed whether the books and other things that we sent ever safely arrived. They were forwarded to Count Moltke as directed.

I should be glad to be very respectfully remembered to the Prince and if I may be permitted to the Queen also, and believe me

with sincere regard and esteem
thy attached and obliged friend
Elizabeth Fry

3. 1826, 20. november. Elizabeth Fry til Caroline Amalie

Plashet House 11th Month 20th 1826

Dear Friend,

It is with regret that I have let so much time pass without acknowledging thy very kind and acceptable letter to me, but I hope that the one I wrote some time since and that must have passed thine to me proved an answer to it. I therefore wished not to intrude upon thy time until I had something worth communicating. I have been interested to hear of the welfare of thyself and the Royal family from different quarters, and I was glad to find from my valued friend the Duchess of Gloucester that thy health was improved.

As thou were so kind as to take an interest in my numerous family I believe you will be pleased to hear that my baby who was born soon after I had the pleasure of seeing thee here is become a very sweet interesting little boy. My eldest son is married and has got a very valuable wife and she has lately presented him with a daughter. My other married child has also two boys, that (sic) I am sensible that we have much cause for

thankfulness to the Father of Mercies for the many blessings bestowed upon us. I continue to visit the Prisons and am deeply interested in the subject and earnestly desire that ladies may do their part in promoting the cause of religion and virtue not only in the performance of their domestic and relative duties but also in attending to the destitute of their own sex and administering to their spiritual and temporal wants and I doubt not from what I have seen and known that in Prisons and other charitable institutions they may accomplish much, also in the education of the poor and many other works of christian love that would not lead them out of their own proper sphere of action. It is worthy of remark that the more fully the christian dispensation influences a nation the more we observe that women take an important and valuable part in the scale of society, although their duties may in many respects differ from those of the other sex, yet when being properly performed in a humble, watchful and circumspect spirit is of incalculable consequence to the community at large. May it be in thy power my dear and valued friend in thy high and important station to encourage thy own sex in Denmark in every work of charity and benevolence. I fully believe that it is thy desire and endeavour to do it. May it please the Most High God to bless thy efforts. I with pleasure forward thee our latest reports of the Ladies British Society for the reformation of female prisoners also two or three other small tracts that I hope may prove acceptable to thee. Pray present my respectful regards to the Crown Prince and to the Queen thy mother if she will condescend to accept them, we feel very grateful for the kind attention that you paid to our valuable friend Shillitoe. His account of the visit that he paid you was very interesting to us. With a desire that Grace, Mercy and Peace may rest on your family and your people I remain with affectionate and respectful regards to thyself in which my husband unites

thy grateful and attached friend
Elizabeth Fry

I should like to be remembered to Lady Erne (23) who we had the pleasure of seeing at Plashet.

4. 1829, 2. november. *Caroline Amalie til Elizabeth Fry*

Chere amie!

Depuis longtemps je soupirais après une occasion favorable pour entamer une nouvelle relation avec vous et aujourd'hui j'en trouve le plus propice par le départ de votre intéressant compatriot. Il m'a réjoui par les nouvelles de votre santé, mais j'apprends avec peine l'échec de votre fortune qui demandera des sacrifices à vos intentions bienfaisantes; mais comme l'amour vaut bien l'or je vous crois néanmoins plus riche que ce soit, et j'en appelle à ce trésor afin d'obtenir le pardon de mon long silence et de n'avoir même pas encore remercié de cette chère lettre accompagnée de tant de brochures intéressantes.

Vous vous intéressez à moi chère amie, vous avez même allumé un désir en moi de suivre vos traces; j'ai fait un petit commencement en fondant un très petit asyle pour de tout petits enfants (24); priez à présent Dieu que cet œuvre reussit, que Sa sagesse me dirige, et que Son amour me pénètre.

Mon mari ainsi que moi vous serrons les mains et sommes

Copenhague
ce 2. novembre 1829

Votre
devouée amie
Caroline
Pr. de Danmarc

5. 1830, 22. april. *Elizabeth Fry til Caroline Amalie*

Upton, 4th Month 22nd 1830

To the Princess of Denmark
My dear and valued Friend,

I regret that so much time has elapsed without my thanking thee for thy kind and valuable letter, thy sympathy in our afflictions was very gratifying to me for it is very pleasant and gratifying to be remembered by our friends particularly in times of trouble. I am thankful to say that through the liberal arrangements made by my kind relations we are comfortably provided

24. Asylet åbnedes den 7. maj 1829.

for and yet have something that we can assist the distressed with. I have thought it a great blessing that we had powerful relations who were able and willing thus to assist us in the needful time. And my desire is amidst all the changes in life to estimate the many blessings that in immerited mercy are granted us and in every thing to give thanks. I was exceedingly sorry to hear that not long ago thou hadst met with an accident by fire. I hope that the burn was not a very severe one, they give so much pain and suffering. I hope by this time thou art quite recovered.

It was very gratifying to me to hear of thy having formed a small asylum for little girls. I trust that through the blessing of the Almighty it may be the means of doing much good and that ladies in other parts of Denmark may be induced to follow thy good example. We continue to be much interested in the Prison cause and I hope that I may say it still goes on well. I generally visit Newgate once a week and the ladies in England and Ireland are doing much, we have also very satisfactory accounts from different parts of the Continent of Europe and we find that there has lately been a committee of ladies formed at Berlin to visit the Prison there. I have at present I think nothing new of our reports to send thee but after our general meeting in the Summer I hope I shall have some that will interest thee and to forward them by the first opportunity.

I hope that we shall one day have the pleasure of seeing thee again in England and with respectful regards to the Queen thy mother and to the Prince thy husband

I remain with much esteem and respect
thy attached and obliged friend
Elizabeth Fry

6. 1830, 2. oktober. Caroline Amalie til Elizabeth Fry

Chère Madame Fry!

Vous venez de me procurer une véritable joie par votre chère lettre, et les détails que vous m'y donnez de votre existence actuelle; Dieu vous conserve sans cesse les moyens de bienfaisance car les œuvres de charité sont un besoin vital pour vous.

J'apprends avec un vif intérêt vos fréquentes visites à Newgate; que je voudrais participer à ces visites. Je regrette sans cesse de ne vous y avoir pas rencontré. Notre asyle marche passablement; nous avons maintenant entre 30 et 40 enfants. Des rapports sur vos asyles, ainsi que des conseils de cette chère, et si vénérée Elizabeth Fry seront reçu de nous avec une vive reconnaissance. Le but principal du comité à cet institution, est de former le cœur de ces enfants qui nous sont confié pendant la journée et de développer leur intellectuel de manière à leur rendre la profession ou Dieu les fit naître aussi utile que possible. Nous laissons aux parens le soin de les nourrir et de les vêtir et nous ne les soignons que moralement.

Je vous suis infiniment obligée du tendre intérêt que vous avez bien voulue prendre au malheur que vous supposez m'être arrivé à moi; c'était ma cousine, la princesse royale, fille de notre Roi (25), et mariée depuis 14 mois au frère cadet de mon mari, qui avait la disgrâce de se brûler cruellement. Les premiers jours on craignait pour sa vie, mais grâces à la bonté divine qui lui accorda une santé aussi robuste elle se remettait après quelque mois. Mon mari qui vous fait bien ses amitiés eut aussi un fâcheux accident en tombant et se donnant une forte contusion à la jambe; il est couché depuis 4 semaines. Dieu qui le protégea pendant la chute lui conservera aussi la bonne santé pendant une aussi longue quarantaine.

Notre bien aimée Reine, ma tante chérie, vous fait dire bien des choses amicales.

Adieu ma chère Madame Fry, veuillez me rappeler au souvenir de toute votre famille et permettez moi de me nommer à jamais.

Sorgenfrei
ce 2 octobre
1830

Votre
toute dévouée amie
Caroline Amalie
pr. de Danmarc
née pr. du Holstein

6a. 1836, 14. oktober 1836. Elizabeth Fry til Caroline Amalie

Upton Lane 10th Month 14th 1836

To the Princess Royal of Denmark

My dear Friend,

Having an opportunity I gladly avail myself of it in sending thee some of our last Reports. I hope that through the kindness of Providence that thy health is now good. I much wish that thyself and the Crowned Prince would once more visit England, we should be glad to welcome you here. My dear husband and my numerous family and myself are favoured at this time with health which I esteem a great blessing.

Believe me My dear Princess
thy attached and obliged friend
Elizabeth Fry

7. 1840, 17. april. Elizabeth Fry til Caroline Amalie

Berlin 4th Month 17th 1840

I hope that my valued and much esteemed friend The Queen of Denmark will not think that I take too great a liberty in my expressing my continued interest on her behalf and the desires that I have felt for herself and the King her Royal husband upon filling the important and responsible situation of being King and Queen of Denmark. I desire that the grace of God may be granted to you to set a holy and Christian example to your people over whom you reign and that wisdom from above may enlighten you to govern with equity, with charity, and with sound discretion.

I feel particularly for thee my long loved and esteemed friend that thou mayst be enabled to be a Christian keepmate to the King in his weighty and very important duties.

Our sex fill an influential place in the community and as we are ornamented with the meek and quiet spirit (which is in the sight of God of great price) we may be made instruments in accomplishing great ends.

My belief is that Our Heavenly Father has granted thee many

talents and above all animated thy heart by His love and I cherish a bright hope that thou wilt be enabled by the Holy Spirit of God to prove thy love by doing much good not only in Denmark but also in the Colonies under your dominion.

This desire has been afresh excited in my heart from some very interesting letters that I have just received from my own brother Joseph John Gurney and a valuable Gentleman from America who in the love of the gospel have left all to pay a religious visit to the West India Islands. They have visited several of those under your dominion as well as many belonging to Great Britain and as I apprehend it may be interesting to thee to know the result of their observations as they come from the most creditable witnesses I will forward thee a statement that has been based on these letters. If thou wouldst desire any further information on this important subject I should be very glad to communicate with thee upon it.

I have been travelling for the last few weeks in Belgium, Holland and Germany accompanied by my brother Gurney and his daughter and my friend William Allen (26) and his niece. Our only inducement for leaving our homes and families is the belief that our lord has called us to this service that we may as ability is granted to us promote the welfare of our fellow mortals and glorify His name.

I have felt a strong attraction to visit Denmark but we think our home duties are so strong that we must not prolong our journey so far.

I should like to have my Christian regards presented to the Queen Dowager whose character I have long esteemed.

May Almighty God through this unmerited mercy in Christ Jesus our Lord be your Keeper your guide your light and your Salvation and May He enrich you with the enduring riches of eternity, make the King, thyself and your Royal Mother a blessing to all around you!

I remain
thy attached and obliged friend
Elizabeth Fry

To the Queen of Denmark

7a. A Statement respecting the Danish and some of the British West India Islands (27)

Extracts from the letter of Mahlom [?] Day dated Antigua 1 month 26, 1840 respecting the Danish Islands.

“Our first landing place (from New York) in the West Indies was at St. Croix. We visited that Island for no specific purpose or concern, but simply because the ship was bound there with Passengers. — Our stay on this Island was about three weeks, during which time we had full and frequent opportunities to know pretty intimately the state of the Island.

“Slavery still exists in the Danish Islands as thou art well aware, though perhaps in a mitigated form — still we cannot divest it of its objectionable character of absolute slavery.

“That useful body of Christians the Wesleyans are wholly excluded from the Island, not a missionary of their order is suffered to do anything on these Islands — not even to teach a school.

“Slavery is the crying sin of the Danish Islands. Only abolish that and I am convinced the other grievances will quickly disappear.

“As thy brother Joseph John Gurney and I were walking in the streets of the towns of the Danish Islands and witnessed the light and profane manners of the people, I frequently remarked to him: ‘Oh if the Wesleyans had a footing here, how rich a harvest they might reap, through God’s blessing on their faithful labours.’

“And even in the Danish Islands we have heard a good deal said in favour of emancipation and I should not be surprised that the noble and magnificent example set by England will before long be followed by them.”

27. En række af de punkter, der er behandlet i dette „Statement” genfindes — med langt flere detaljer — i det brev (se K. S. 7. Række, Bind I, s. 148-155), hvori J. J. Gurney 28/8 1841 præciserede og uddybede de synspunkter, han forelagde Christian VIII under en audiens den 26/8. (Se også en dansk genpart, dateret s. s. og egenhændigt underskrevet af E. Fry og J. J. Gurney. Danske Kancelli, 2. Departement, Indlæg til Brevbogen 1842 nr. 1955.)

Men det er i hvert fald interessant at se, at en væsentlig del af det materiale, som Gurney ønskede, at kongen skulle få kendskab til, må være kommet Christian VIII i hænde et par måneder inden det planlagte besøg i København.

Extract from a letter from Joseph John Gurney under the same date

“The points to be desired are – First – the abolition of Slavery in the Danish Islands of St. Croix, St. Thomas and St. Johns. Secondly: The Christian education of the people in those Islands. Thirdly: The Maintenance of the Sabbath day, which is now shamefully occupied by large Negro markets, namely the Negroes having no day in the week allowed them for their own purposes hold large provision markets in the towns, on the sabbath days – so that almost the whole population white and black are devoted on these days to worldly business. Fourthly: I am very desirous to get the door opened for the Wesleyan missionaries. James Cox, one of that class now in Antigua, of most unexceptionable character and fully to be relied on as a man of sound discretion and prudence, is ready to go to Santa Croix if permitted. A Royal Order would be required to effect this purpose.”

Extracts from the same letters respecting the British Islands

“On this Island (Dominica) matters are becoming settled and encouraging. The most extensive Proprietor and Atty. Dugalet [?] Stewart Laidlaw [?] has told me the labouring people are all working well on his estates at Job Work (a certain quantity of work to be performed for an agreed sum). That the free system is the best system and this acknowledgement is now made by nearly every proprietor not only on this but in every British Island we have visited.

“In short we have not only been delighted but surprised to find things so comfortably progressing. When we look back only a few years to the time when slavery existed with the lash and the dungeon, it is almost too much for our belief, to see what we see, and to hear what we hear. The contrast says an intelligent coloured man now sitting by me ‘is as day to night.’ The British people may well be proud at this victory, the noblest they have ever won.”

Extracts from the letters of Joseph John Gurney under same date

“The longer I have staid in this Island (Antigua) the more abundant has been the evidence afforded me that emancipation is

working admirably – the Planters saving money – property rising in value – crime decreasing, comforts of the Negro greatly increased.

“Freedom is working admirably on the British Islands we have already visited.”

Extract from a letter from J. J. Gurney, dated Jamaica 2nd of [February?] 1840

“We found freedom working well on the four British Islands we have visited.

1. The emancipated negroes are working well on the sugar estates.

2. The Planters are in general gaining pecuniarily by the change.

3. Property is risen and rising in value.

4. Morals and education are progressive amongst the labouring class.

5. The comforts are already immensely increased.

“In returning from Dominica, a most interesting Island towards Jamaica, we unexpectedly made Santa Crux, where we tarried another week. The seed before sown, having grown and an unusual opening for religious service having sprung up chiefly among the planters – much more openness on the subject of slavery and our reports about the British Islands very useful”.

In respect of the preceeding extracts I may observe that Great Britain also endeavoured to establish a mitigated or intermediate state of Slavery and called it apprenticeship. This experiment wholly failed – man would not labour excepting for the stimulus of the Whip and the fear of the Prison or for pay. Any system not having the stimulus of one or the other, cannot succeed – such was the case with the British apprenticeship. The Planters consented to its termination two years before the period fixed by law – and unconditional freedom was the result. And the short experience we have already had of it clearly shows that it is a decided benefit to all parties with very few individual exceptions.

Truly is it desired that the King of Denmark may not rest satisfied with any mitigation of Slavery – for it is Slavery still – and cannot be divested of its obnoxious character – but that he

may take such effectual steps for the total abolition that his subjects of every class in those Islands may partake of those advantages, which the inhabitants of the British Islands are already in possession of.

J. J. Gurney
Berlin 4th Month 18, 1840

8. 1840, 30. april. *Caroline Amalie til Elizabeth Fry*

Copenhague ce 30 Avril
1840

Chère amie!

Ce n'est que hier que je recevais votre chère lettre de Berlin et qui malgré la joie qu'elle me causait ne manquait pas en même temps de me desappointé cruellement. J'avais appris que vous etiez à Berlin et je ne doutais nullement que vous visiteriez Copenhague et vos anciens amis le Roi et la Reine de Danmarc avant de quitter le continent.

De Berlin a Copenhague vous pouvez aller en 36 heures par le bateau à vapeur de Stettin, et croyez moi qu'y il a beaucoup à faire à Copenhague pour ameillorer les prisons. Je vous engage bien a ne pas nous négliger ainsi! Ah si je pouvois réussir a vous engager à venir nous voir! Votre lettre, vos vœux et la communication [sic!] des relations sur les Iles danoises aux petits Inde, remplissent mon coeur de reconnaissance.

Je fais traduire ses relations en danois afin de les lire au Roi. Je serai enchanté d'en avoir autant de relations que possible, afin que ce cher Roi connaisse bien toute la maladie morale de ces pauvres Iles. Le mauvais gouvernement de ces provinces, expose l'étât de la chose dans une fausse lumiere! Depuis longtemps j'ai soupirée après le moment que la verité soit mise sous les yeux du bon et exellent Roi! Dieu vous bénisse, continuez à prier pour nous, que le gouvernement de mon mari devienne une bénédiction de Dieu pour avancer son règne en Danmarc. Le Roi vous salue amicalement et je suis Votre

fidèle amie
Caroline

Cette lettre est confidentielle!

9. 1841, 15. juni. *Elizabeth Fry til Caroline Amalie*

Upton near London, 6th Mo. 15th 1841 (28)

To the Queen of Denmark,
My dear and valued Friend,

I take the liberty of writing to thee to ask thee whether thou ever received a book that I sent some months ago written by my brother Joseph John Gurney giving an account of the winter that he spent in the West Indies. I also request the favour of thee to inform me in what way I had best send a work written by my brother Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton (29) that he wishes to have presented to thee as I am anxious that thou shouldst see it as I believe its contents would interest thee. I hope that I am not taking too great a liberty in making this request of course I could not ask the favour of thee to write thyself but should be obliged if thou wouldst employ any person to write me a few lines.

I think with much interest of your country and the King and thyself and have thought a little of visiting Prussia this Summer accompanied by my brother Joseph John Gurney and if a visit would be acceptable from us to Copenhagen we propose proceeding there, our object would be to visit the Prisons and charitable Institutions to sympathise with those who love our Lord and Saviour and to encourage them in their Christian course; my brother wishes to have some private communication with the King and thyself respecting the state of your West India Islands.

With my large family and numerous calls of duty my accompanying him may be uncertain but as we should if we do make this journey be most anxious to have some communication with thyself I should be glad to know whether we might look to this pleasure and satisfaction if we should visit Denmark about two months from this time. I truly desire that the blessing of God

28. Brevet bærer poststemplerne Frankfurt 23. juni og Hamburg 26. juni.

29. Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton (1786-1845) var gift med Elizabeth Frys søster. Som medlem af Underhuset (1818-37) virkede han for slaveriets ophævelse og var i øvrigt meget aktiv i kampen for en reform af fængselsvæsenet. Den her omtalte bog er også nævnt i J. J. Gurneys brev af 28/8 1841 (K. S. 7. Række Bind I, s. 154-55).

may rest upon the King, thyself and your people,

and I remain
thy attached obliged friend
Elizabeth Fry

10. 1841, 19. juli. *Caroline Amalie til Elizabeth Fry*

Chère Madame Fry!

Il y a un couple de semaines que je tiens votre cher lettre du quinze Juin! Je ne puis vous dire comme je me réjouis de l'espoir de vous voir ici peut-être le mois prochain. Nous avions des projets de voyage dans le pays, mais un accident survenu au Roi par suite d'une chute de cheval l'oblige depuis quatre semaines de ne pas bouger et cette quarantaine lui durera encore pendant quelque temps. La vie tranquille que nous menons maintenant serait bien propice à des entretiens détaillés avec Mr. Gurny et depuis que nous connaissons ses opinions sur nos îles dans les petites Indes le désir de communiquer verbalement avec lui a beaucoup augmenté. Veuillez charger la mission danoise à Londre de me faire parvenir la lettre que Monsieur votre frère a bien voulu m'écrire. Le ministre danois est le Baron Blome (30), et en cas de congé de celui-ci le comte Bille-Brahe (31) est chargé d'affaires. Veuillez maintenant recevoir tous mes regrets de ne vous avoir pas remercié au mois de Mars de l'envoi de votre chère lettre et des notices de Mr. Gurney sur les petites Indes, quand nous nous reverrons je vous demanderai verbalement pardon de cette négligence. Dieu vous benisse chère Madame Fry et nous amène la bénédiction de votre visite.

Votre bien dévouée amie
Caroline

Copenhague 19 Juillet

30. Adolf Friedrich Blome (1798-1875).

31. Kammerjunker Henrik Bille Brahe var legationssekretær i London 1836-1841.

11. 1841, 7. august. Elizabeth Fry til Caroline Amalie

The Hague 7th of the 8th Month 1841

My dear and valued Queen,

In reply to thy very kind and acceptable letter that I received just before I left home, I may inform thee that I did not send my brother's work through the Danish Ambassador because I thought that as we were likely so soon to visit Denmark that we had better take it ourselves.

We are now at the Hague and we expect to arrive at Copenhagen in about ten days or a fortnight from this time, we mean to travel through the North of Holland to Hamburg and then proceed to Copenhagen, any letter would meet us at the Poste Restante at Hamburg. I think it likely that we shall stay a few days at Amsterdam, which may make it about the twentieth when we arrive at Copenhagen.

My brother J. J. Gurney and myself look forward with much interest to seeing the King and thyself, we hope that the King is gradually recovering.

We congratulate you upon the marriage of the Prince Royal (32) and hope that the blessing of the Almighty will rest upon you and your children, and I remain

with much respect and esteem
thy attached and obliged friend

Elizabeth Fry

To the Queen of Denmark

12. 1841, 13. august. Caroline Amalie til Elizabeth Fry

Copenhagen
Samedi 13 aout
1841

Chère Madame Fry!

Hier je reçu votre lettre de la Haye, avec la délicieuse nouvelle d'oser vous attendre vers le vingt. Je vous envoie ces lignes post

32. Frederik (VII)s ægteskab med Caroline Charlotte Mariane af Mecklenburg.

restante à Hamburg pour vous exprimer la vive joie que j'éprouve de l'idée de vous posséder ici quelques temps! Dieu benisse ce séjour pour Copenhagen! Le cher Roi est beaucoup mieux et a commencé aujourd'hui à essayer de marcher quelque pas.

Votre toute dévouée amie
Caroline

13. 1841, 27. august. Elizabeth Fry til Caroline Amalie

Copenhagen 8th Mo. 27th 1841

My dear and valued Friend,

My brother and myself have felt rather anxious lest the King and thyself should be overfatigued with the very kind attention that you paid us yesterday and your numerous visitors, including the dear little children, we therefore send over a messenger to enquire after your health and also to convey some documents respecting the baptists who are in your police Prison, that I told the King that I would leave at the Palace and I forgot to do it. As they belong to the poor man (except the letter to myself) I may take them back when I have the pleasure of seeing you again.

I trust that the King (whose kindness *we deeply feel*) will not think that I make too free in pressing the point of the infinite importance of religious toleration in the country, because I most firmly believe that whether I read the history of Nations or observe the result of its operation in the present day, nothing more truly conduces the peace and prosperity of a country than liberty of conscience. Surely the protestant countries of Europe who consider Luther their father, who was so entirely opposed to persecution and was so great a friend to religious liberty, ought not to be the people to persecute others, and with their more enlightened views set this example to Catholic countries. I long very earnestly that in this interesting country governed by so valuable a Sovereign, that an example may be set to the Northern countries of Europe to grant Christian liberty to their subjects; I doubt not that it would be acceptable to God and approved by

man and bring a blessing with it to the King and his people. I venture to say so much in Christian freedom.

I would be very glad of a few lines to say how the King and thyself are in your health and with a warm feeling of love and gratitude I remain, my dear Queen,

thy attached and obliged friend
Elizabeth Fry

14. 1841, 27. august. Caroline Amalie til Elizabeth Fry

9 1/2 le soir du 27 Août

Chère Madame Fry,

Que je suis peinée d'avoir tant fait attendre votre message! Nous étions chez la Reine douairière (33) et en revenant vers 8 heures courue [?] dans mon jardin et ne suis rentrée qu'à neuf heure. Dans ce moment seulement je trouve votre chère lettre et votre paquet, et ne puis assez vous remercier de l'aimable intérêt que vous prenez à nos santées. Le Roi se porte à merveille, et vous et votre cher frère ont fait du bien à son cœur et à son esprit! Il est dans une si excellente disposition, prions de tout notre âme pour que le St. Esprit l'éclaire dans toutes les branches spirituelles de son gouvernement. Que Notre Seigneur augmente en lui la foi! Que Notre Seigneur me rende un digne instrument pour avancer toute chose Chrétienne chez mon bien aimé époux! J'entend ma chère amie Madame Fry dire amen amen!!! Moi même je suis très bien et si heureuse *of the blessing day* hier. Mille complimens amicales à vous, à votre cher frère, à vos aimables et excellentes nièces. Je lirai tous les papiers (34) avec attention et vous les remettrai Dimanche! Si cela vous arrange de me donner un moment rendez-vous, ou à onze heures ou à midi le jour de votre départ, je me rendrai à mon palais en ville lundi

33. Enkedronning Marie Sophie Frederikke (1767-1852).

34. Formentlig Elizabeth Frys og J. J. Gurneys forslag om forbedring af fængselsforholdene og indførelse af religionsfrihed (se K. S. 7. Række, Bind I, s. 142 ff).

matin! J'ai aussi des nièces qui aspirent à faire votre connaissance et qui parlent anglais. Elles se trouveront alors chez moi.

Votre fidèle amie
Caroline

Le Roi vous salue bien amicalement tous!

15. 1841, 1. september. *Elizabeth Fry til Caroline Amalie*

Lubeck 9th Mo. 1st 1841

My beloved Christian Friend,

I thought it might be a satisfaction to thee to know that we were favoured with a very calm voyage and arrived here safely yesterday morning; and I may say the remembrance of our visit to Denmark brings peace, and thankfulness to our hearts.

Very earnestly do I pray and desire that God may bless this visit to many souls [?] and that the heart of the King may be disposed to liberate the captives. This I desire for those he governs and for the sake of his own soul.

We are much obliged by thy kind present of the pictures of Copenhagen and our hearts overflow with a feeling of love and gratitude, to the King and thyself for your extraordinary kindness towards us. My dear brother and my sweet nieces unite in very affectionate and respectful regards to the King and thyself,

and I remain
thy much attached and grateful friend
Elizabeth Fry

To the Queen of Denmark

16. 1842, 22, marts. *Elizabeth Fry til Caroline Amalie*

Upton Lane 3d Mo. 22nd 1842

My dear and valued Queen,

I am at last anxious at not hearing from thee. I have feared that

the letter I heard thou thought of writing to me has been lost on its way as my dear friend Catherine Brown said that thou wast so kind as to propose writing to me the post after thou had written to my dear nieces. I have feared also lest thou hast been poorly or any thing may have been the matter with the King and I have also fear'd whether my last letter had been welcome to thyself and thy Royal husband. I hope soon to have all my fears removed by seeing thy handwriting once more and hearing of the welfare and happiness of the King and thyself.

I suppose that the Professor David has been long returned home. I wish that he may promote the moral and religious instruction of the poor Prisoners as well as trying to improve the buildings. I hope one day to hear that your Prison Societies are beginning their labour of Christian love. We are delighted to hear of the liberation of the Baptist Ministers. May it bring peace and blessing upon the King thyself and the country of Denmark! and may Christian toleration adorn this interesting Land.

We had a delightful visit from the King of Prussia. He was full of love and kindness and appeared much pleased with our family and those that he met under our roof, he also appeared to be much interested by the visit that he paid to Newgate. He spoke to me with much interest about Denmark and what was doing in your country. — I hope that one day we may be favoured to see the King and thyself under our roof. We should feel it very gratifying to have a visit from you. I have had a letter from the Queen of Prussia and she expresses her desire to visit us if the King of Prussia ever visits England again.

My beloved Christian friend, for allow me to call thee so, how earnestly do I desire that the peace and blessing of Almighty God may rest upon thyself and the King and that all your labours for the good of others may prosper.

We are likely to have a Sale for the Prison Society as we want some money to support our Refuges for the poor Repentant Prisoners, we propose its being held on the 19th and 20th of next month. I thought I would venture to ask thee to do me the kindness to write us a few texts of Scripture on small sheets of paper as I think we might get a good deal of money for them for the poor Prisoners but I beg thee not to trouble thyself about it.

Pray present my respectful regards to the King of Denmark

and with kind remembrance to all thy ladies and such branches of the Royal family as we have the pleasure of knowing

I remain
My dear Queen of Denmark
thy attached
and obliged
Christian friend
Elizabeth Fry

My brother J. J. Gurney would unite with me did he know of my writing [?], in respectful regards to the King and thyself.

To the Queen of Denmark

17. 1842 (*uden dato*). *Caroline Amalie til Elizabeth Fry*

Ma chère Madame Fry,

Je suis toute triste de vous avoir fait attendre si longtemps après la lettre que je vous annonçais il y a plusieurs mois quand j'écrivais à vos chères nièces pour les remercier de l'envoi du cher portrait. Mais je suis encore beaucoup plus triste de ne pouvoir vous annoncer un résultat décisif quand à la permission de visiter les prisonniers; mais je ne perd pas courage et j'espère dans quelque temps pouvoir vous annoncer good spell! Quand à l'affaire des Baptistes (35) je sais qu'on s'en occupe sérieusement mais j'ignore quel sera le résultat. Jusqu'ici le gouvernement craint de dévier de ses devoirs en permettant liberté religieuse complète. Dieu éclaire le Roi de Sa Sagesse en toute chose! Voilà mon ardente prière à laquelle s'associera ma chère et bien aimée amie Madame Fry et votre bon frère Monsieur Gurney. Le Roi vous fait à vous tous deux bien des amitiés; vos chères lettres lui ont fait plaisir, il sait si bien apprécier chaque parole qui lui vient d'un cœur bienveillant, il aimerait pourvoir satisfaire tous les vœux charitables, mais par les circonstances il y a parfois des conflits difficile à resoudre.

35. Om Elizabeth Frys bestræbelser for at få frigivet de to fængslede baptistpræster Peter og Adolph Mønster se K. S. 7. Række Bind I, s. 147 ff.

Que je voudrais à mon bien aimé et excellent époux la connaissance de l'excellent Roi de Prusse (36). Comme sa visite en Angleterre, et chez ma chère Madame Fry m'a fait plaisir!

Madame Brown (37) vous enverra avec cette lettre quelques passages de l'écriture sainte écrite par ma main, si j'avais eu quelque ouvrage préparé je vous en aurais envoyée; cela sera pour une autre fois si vous voulez m'avertir quelque temps d'avance.

Votre fidèle amie
Caroline Amalie

Monsieur David (38) était enchanté de sa visite à Upton, il me dit que vous lui aviez paru un des patriarches entourée de votre nombreuse famille.

18. 1842, 25. juli. *Elizabeth Fry til Caroline Amalie*

Cromer, Norfolk, 7th Month 25th, 1842

My much loved and valued Queen,

I must send thee one private line to say that I hope the King will not feel that I have made too free in writing to him, I hope that you neither think that I make too free in calling you my *friends*, because I do indeed feel you so and that it is a true title, for your friendship I think I shall never forget or your kindness to us when in Denmark.

I advise my letter to the King being translated by Julius Sehested (39) and he could also translate all the regulations respecting the female officers if agreeable to the King. I send

36. Frederik Vilhelm IV (1795-1861) var blevet konge af Preussen i 1840. Christian VIII havde en sammenkomst med ham i 1843.

37. Den engelske gesandts hustru Katherine Browne.

38. Professor Christian Nathan David (1793-1874), politiker og national-økonom, blev i 1845 fængselsdirektør og 1848 overinspektør for fængsels-væsenet.

39. Julius Rammel Gyldenstjerne Sehested (1806-79) var tolk for E. Fry og J. J. Gurney i 1841, bl. a. under deres fængselsbesøg i København.

these regulations from a Prison for separate confinement and the others from a house of correction.

I am very sorry to say just as I was finishing my letter to the King it was blotted by some ink, and I could not well have copy'd it without delaying my sending it for another post. I send also a book partly written by myself that may be useful to the gentlemen and ladies who visit the Prisoners.

I hope that the King and thyself are favoured with the blessing of health. I am thankful to say I have felt much recovered since my stay by the seaside in my native county.

I remain
My dear Queen of Denmark
thy much attached and grateful friend
Elizabeth Fry

To the Queen of Denmark

19. 1842, 16. august. Caroline Amalie til Elizabeth Fry

Chère Madame Fry,

Je vous envoie cijoint une lettre du Roi (40) et une traduction de son ordonnance concernant les prisons, dont j'espère que vous serai contente. Je suis si heureuse que nous en sommes là et je bénis de tout mon cœur votre visite et celle de Mr. votre frère qu'ont commencé ce resultat.

Puisse votre chère santé chancelante aller mieux! Je suis couché avec une jambe malade depuis le 8 Juillet et je n'ose pas écrire beaucoup, voila pourquoi je ne vous envoie aujourd'hui que

40. Brevet fra Christian VIII findes i original blandt Elizabeth Frys papirer. Det er dateret Wijk, Föhr, 8. august 1842 og fortæller om de forskellige forbedringer af fængselsforholdene, som er gennemført efter E. Frys besøg i 1841. Brevet er aftrykt af Kornerup (K. S. 7. Række, Bind I, s. 171) efter koncepten i Kongehusets arkiv, og brevtæksten afviger kun på enkelte uvæsentlige punkter fra konceptens ordlyd. Den er derfor ikke medtaget i nærværende publikation. Som bilag til brevet medfulgte teksten til kgl. resolution af 25. juni 1842, og Christian VIII havde bedt Caroline Amalie om at sørge for, at der blev medsendt en oversættelse.

peu de lignes, qui ne doivent être considéré que comme signe de vie. Dieu vous benisse! Aimez toujours, chère Mad. Fry,

Votre
bien dévouée et affectionnée amie
Caroline

16 Aout

Bien des amitiés à M. Gurney et à vos nièces. C'est le jeune Denis Brown que a fait la traduction anglaise.

20. 1842, 17. september. Elizabeth Fry til
Christian VIII og Caroline Amalie (41)

Northrepps Hall 9th Mo. 17th 1842

I hope that the King and Queen of Denmark will not think me negligent in not having before acknowledged the receipt of their very obliging and delightful letters, I can truly assure my beloved and honoured Friends that your communications made my heart glad and my belief is that much good will soon be accomplished in your prisons though it must be a work of time to produce a great reformation.

It appears very important that the Society of gentlemen and ladies for the improvement of the Prisoners should be very diligent in the performance of their duties, in visiting the Prisoners, patronising them after they are liberated and obtaining all the information they can on the subject of Prison Discipline from all other countries, that they may be well acquainted with the various experiments that are now making upon this important and interesting subject. I hope that Julius Sehested will continue their Secretary as he appeared to be so peculiarly suitable for this office and I trust that my friend Catherine Brown will be useful to the Ladies who visit the Prisoners and earnestly do I desire that the blessing of the most High God May rest upon their labours of Christian love and charity.

41. På brevomslaget „To the King and Queen of Denmark” from Elizabeth Fry.

I have been very sorry to hear of the Queen's illness and hope by this time that her leg is quite recovered, may it please our Heavenly Father long to preserve her useful and valuable life!

I must once more express my gratitude for your obliging and valuable letters. My brothers are neither with me at this time nor my nieces or they would join me in affectionate and respectful remembrance to you, and I remain

My dear and valued King and Queen
your attached and obliged friend
Elizabeth Fry

21. 1843, 4. april. *Elizabeth Fry til Caroline Amalie*

Upton 4th Mo. 4th 1843

My much beloved and valued Queen of Denmark,

I have long wished to write to thee to enquire after thy health and spirits as I have received rather poor accounts of thee. The loss of thy dear mother the Duchess Dow^r of Augustenberg [sic.] (42) must have been a great trial to thee for it is very hard to part with those dear to us; even our blessed Lord and Saviour wept at the grave of His friend although He knew that through His own Almighty power He could and would raise him from the dead. I feel what a consolation to believe that our Almighty Lord who is touched with a feeling of our infirmity is ever near to comfort, help and heal His dependant servants in their afflictions and various conflicts. I trust my dear friend that thy Lord is very near to thee as thy help, thy strength and thy consolation! I hope that thy health is improving and that as the sweet spring weather advances thou will feel a fresh revival of health, life and power.

It will give me pleasure also to hear of the King. I hope that he has perfectly recovered his lameness. I feel it very desirable to hear of you as I am so much interested for the Kings and thy everlasting welfare and your present peace and prosperity and that the blessing of Almighty God may rest upon you and upon your people.

42. Hertuginde Louise Augusta af Augustenborg (1771-1843).

A few weeks ago I received a most satisfactory letter from my friend Julius Sehested giving me a very pleasant report of a new womens prison, of ladies being likely to begin visiting the female prisoners, of an excellent Chaplain being appointed (43) and the Prison discipline Society having met, and beginning their operations. I really feel it cause for much thankfulness that this important work is so far begun, that there is so much reason to hope it will now go on and that the poor men will also one day be visited in the Citadel and the large Prison for the men who are long imprisoned. I forgot to say how I rejoiced to find that plenty of good books were admitted into the Prison.

I think that the King will feel much peace and comfort in having allowed the great improvements to be made in the Prisons of Denmark. I think it will prove a good example for other countries.

I should be glad to have my respectful and affectionate remembrance presented to the Queen Dow^r the Duchess of Glucksbourg and others who I had the pleasure of meeting in Denmark.

I once more must endeavour to express my good wishes for the King and thyself and with a grateful remembrance of your great kindness to my brother, my nieces and myself I remain

thy attached and obliged friend
Elizabeth Fry

P.S. I expect to visit Paris the middle of this month to remain there about five weeks. My address there will be Hotel Meurice à Paris.

To the Queen of Denmark

22. 1843, 14. november. Caroline Amalie til Elizabeth Fry

Chère Madame Fry,

C'est avec bien de la peine que nous venons d'apprendre votre grave indisposition, suite des fatigues de vos voyages. Pussions nous apprendre bien tôt que vous soyez remise et en état de

43. Se note 44.

continuer votre activité charitable. Je pense bien souvent à vous avec tendresse, et jamais je n'oublierai votre chère visite à Copenhague.

Nos pauvres prisonniers vous doivent d'entendre la parole de Dieu par un prédicateur zélé et tout à fait Chrétien, et plusieurs dames vraiment pénétrées de la parole de Notre Seigneur secondent parfaitement le pasteur Boisen (44) dans ses soins pour les âmes des pauvres condamnée. M^{lle} Andresen que vous avez connue ici, est infatigable dans ces soins.

Nous avons eu une visite pendant le mois passé de l'excellente Sieveking de Hambourg (45), qui vient former ici une petite réunion de dames visitant des pauvres.

Le cher Roi vous fait bien des complimens et amitiés, veuillez me rappeler au souvenir de votre cher époux, de vos enfans, de votre frère et ces chères nièces. Je me recommande à toute cette excellente famille avec des souvenirs d'affection.

Pour vous même chère chère Madame Fry je vous presse contre mon cœur et me nomme à jamais

Votre bien devouée amie
Caroline Amelie

Copenhague, ce 14 nov.r 1843

Foruden de her gengivne breve findes blandt Elizabeth Frys papirer i Friends House tre korte breve, som jeg ikke har ment det nødvendigt at aftrykke her:

a) 6/6 1822 bekræfter hofdame frk. Frederikke Urne, at prins og prinsessen gerne vil besøge kvækerskolen onsdag den 10/6 og vil indfinde sig til frokost kl. 10.

b) 20/6 1822 takker prins Christian Frederiks privatsekretær J. G. Adler på prinsesse Caroline Amalies vegne for en indbydelse

44. Carl Christian Boisen (1804-66) — senere stiftsprovst i Ribe — blev 1842 ansat som præst ved Tugt- og Forbedringshuset på Christianshavn.

45. Amalie Sieveking (1794-1859), tysk filantrop.

til at aflægge et besøg i Plashet House mandag den 1/7 kl. 1 (46). Adler beklager, at han selv er forhindret i at komme med, da han netop på dette tidspunkt skal møde i *Bible Society* (47).

c) 5/12 1822 fremsender den danske chargé d'affaires i London, H. A. Clauswitz, det som nr. 1 gengivne brev af 8/11 fra Caroline Amalie. Han meddeler samtidig, at han til gesandten (grev C. A. Moltke), som på dette tidspunkt var i København, vil videresende et brev fra Elizabeth Fry.

46. Se oventor s. 112.

47. Besøget i Bibelselskabet refereres i prinsens dagbog.