

JESUS COLLEGE
CAMBRIDGE
CB5 8BL

14. October 1976

Dear Mr Williamson

As College Archivist I am replying to your letter about William Fread. I am afraid you have got some of your information from a doubtful source. Fread was an undergraduate at Christ's College. He took the Maths Tripos in 1780 and was 2^d Wrangler (He says!) This means 3rd in order in the 1st class not 2^d class. He was approached by Dr Lynford Caryll, Master of Jesus, who suggested that he should apply for a vacant Fellowship at Jesus. This in itself is peculiar at a date when Masters of Colleges did

not know socially ^{even} the Fellows of Colleges. Can it be explained
by the fact that ^{of} Lyford Caryl was a Prebendary of
Canterbury and might have known of ^{or know the relations}
of, a bright boy at the King's School? Be that as it
may Frennd was elected a Fellow of Jesus April 23 1781. The
tutorship was ^{the gift} of the Master, who appointed Frennd
maths tutor immediately after he became a Fellow. In a
small society, at this time only 16 Fellows, this may have
caused some resentment. A few months later Caryl died. He
was succeeded by Dr Beadon, who had been tutor to one of the
nephews of George III and who later was made Bishop of Gloucester.
Frennd was already a deacon when he was elected Fellow and
he took priest's orders in 1783. He was presented to the vicarage

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of Long Stanton All Saints Dec. 22. 1783, not a College living
There was one fellow of the College who had resigned his Fellow-
ship or become a Unitarian, Tyrowhatt, but he remained in
College as a Fellow-Commoner, i.e. member of the Combination
Room, was generally beloved and stayed on till his death in
1814. Trend joined the movement for the reform of the
curriculum of the University and the admission of Nonconformists.
In 1787 he published an "Address to the Inhabitants" advocating
these and some other political reforms. For this Dr Beadon
removed him from the office of Tutor. Trend appealed to the
Visitor the Bishop of Ely, on very legalistic grounds. When
the Bishop decided the case against him, no one tried to like

away his Fellowship. He went abroad for a time and no doubt picked up some of the ideas which inspired the French Revolution. Friend was back in Cambridge by 1791 and no less a person than Cideridge notes that he was very popular with Dr Pearce, the new Master, who succeeded Dr Beaden in 1789. On February 22nd 1793 Friend published anonymously his celebrated pamphlet "Peace and Union recommended to the Associated Bodies of Republicans and Anti-Republicans" just when war with France had been declared. This rather naturally roused a great deal of feeling, but what must be surprising to anybody who lived through world war II a great deal of sympathy was aroused for Friend. Friend worsened his own position by refusing to admit or to deny that he was the author of the pamphlet. It is true that the Master and Fellows at last

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got rid of him by a trick after he had conducted a long 'sit-in' in his college rooms. The porter was ordered not to admit him but his Fellowship stipend continued to be paid to him until he married in 1808. We have Friend's own M.S. account of all this which he later published as an anonymous pamphlet. We have also the very rude letter he wrote to the Master. He was obviously a man who enjoyed making enemies but who was very attractive to his friends. A life of him came out about four years ago by a Mrs Frida Knight.

Yours sincerely
Freda Jones

P.S.

We have a portrait bust of Friend, which could be photographed for you, if you wish, but no other likeness