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The name of William Friend is today remembered in two connections as a crony of Charles Lamb, who wrote a nice verse playing on his name ("Friend of the friendless, friend of all mankind") and as the defendant in the Vice-Chancellor's Court at Cambridge in 1793 where he was ^{accused} ~~found~~ guilty of writing a blasphemous and seditious pamphlet found guilty of offending against university laws and banished from the Alma Mater. William Friend deserves to be rescued from oblivion for other reasons. He was a good mathematician, economist, astronomer and a fighter for Reform throughout his long life. He was the second son of a respected Canterbury wine merchant George Friend (who had his office and was known by the present information kiosk in the Longmarket) ^{and was} twice Mayor of Canterbury. Born on November 22nd 1757 he entered the King's School and was in his Beauvois house. He won a scholarship to Christ's Cambridge and ~~obtained his degree~~ became 2nd Wrangler in 1780 in Mathematics. Three years later he was approached by Dr LYMFORD CARYL the Master of Jesus who suggested that he should apply for a vacant fellowship at Jesus. This was peculiar at a time when Masters of a College did not know society even their own fellows. Can it be ~~that~~ explained by the fact that Lymford Caryl was a prebendary of Canterbury and might have known of, or known the relation of a bright boy at the King's School? Be that as it may Friend was elected a Fellow of Jesus on April 23rd 1781. The fellowship was in the gift of the Master who appointed Friend Master Tutor immediately after he became a fellow. In a small society at this time only 16 fellows this may have caused some resentment. ~~The~~ Master Caryl died a few months later he was succeeded by Dr BEADON formerly one of the tutors to a nephew of George III who was not so sympathetic to his cause. By this time William Friend was presented to the vicarage of Long Stanton ^{and Maddingley} by the Bishop of Exeter and he joined the movement for the reform of the curriculum of the university & the admission of non-Conformists. In 1787 Friend ^{published} ~~joined the movement~~ an "Address to the Inhabitants advocating these & some other political reforms". For this Dr Beadon removed him from the office of Tutor and although his fellowship was not taken

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away he went abroad and no doubt picked up some of the ideas of the French Revolution; he had already been a prodigious traveller. He had been at St Omer in France & after taking his degree he went to Quebec to serve for a few weeks in the American war. He was offered and declined the post of tutor to ~~the~~ Tsar Alexander I. Returning to Cambridge in 1793 Fend published anonymously his celebrated pamphlet 'Peace & Union recommended to the Associated Bodies of Republicans & Anti-Republicans' just when war with France had been declared; this rather latently aroused a great deal of feeling & Fend worsened his own position by refusing to admit or deny that he was the author of the pamphlet; it is true that the Rectors & Fellows got rid of him by a trick after he had conducted a long 'sit in' in his college rooms and the parties refused to admit him but he continued to have his stipend paid to him until he married in 1808. Undaunted Fend went to live in London making ends meet by teaching and writing books on algebra and economics: some of the titles were a treatise on the ring - 'The National Debt in its true colours' & 'Principles of Taxation' in which he urged a graduated system of taxes. He took up political activity helping Francis Place who was organising the London Corresponding Society and when the Society was suppressed by an Act of 1796 many members were arrested or jailed. Fend worked energetically to collect money for the prisoners and their almost destitute families. A collecting sheet which survives shows that among those he approached for contributions were such prominent people as Whitbread, Lord Grey and Home Tooke with whom he was on familiar terms; at the same time he led a full social life, counting the Lambos & Hibbards (whose daughter became the future Lady Byron) and many more Unitarians & radical intellectuals. He also at this time founded the Rock Insurance Company (now part of the Royal Insurance Co) and married in 1806 the daughter of the celebrated Archdeacon Blackburne who bore him seven children.

For the next thirty years Fernal kept up with current affairs by writing articles for the Unitarian Journal 'the Monthly Repository'; this was the regular production of a several thousand word 'Christmas Survey of the Modern World'. The job demanded a vast amount of news coverage: Fernal wrote about everything he considered important or interesting - the war, the nation of Germany, religion not only in Europe but all over the world - India, China, South America - presenting this as news from a very definite and individual viewpoint. He described the course of the Napoleonic campaigns in great detail - the diplomatic exchanges, the front line & the rear; through the long years from the battle of Kehlcheron to Waterloo was condemnation of war itself; while recognizing the Germanic reasons for it he refused to accept it as a method of settling human disputes. The articles still strike us by their sheer doggedness. In May 1810 Fernal warned of a Russian advance against the Turkish Empire. Two years later he describes the burning of Moscow and the battles of Smolensk & Borodino 'a murderous battle which dwarfed as have been those which this age has witnessed exceeds them all in the horrid work of war in carnage & destruction'. Later when the French retreated Fernal reports the confusion surrounding the situation. One amusing piece of news came through from the South of Russia where the Persians have obtained a victory over our Russian ally, chiefly in consequence of the skill of the British officers there who had not heard of the change of affairs in Europe. England is now zealous in support of those barbarians with whom a few months ago it was in open hostilities. So fickle, so changeable are worldly politics!" On Anglo-American relations perhaps Fernal was a shade pessimistic; like many British radicals of the time he found the Americans as greedy & foolish as others here. His words about Africa

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have a typical ring, fulminating against the slave trade in January 1815 he wrote "how could it be otherwise when all the avenues of knowledge were shut up to them all the resources of individual exertion denied to them, but even scandal at home did not miss his pen. The revelations of corruption & incompetence in high places, closely connected with military inefficiency led to a major scandal when it was discovered that the Duke of York's mistress was giving away furs to the army and when the case was taken up by Sir Francis Burdett the member of parliament for Westminster it was taken up in great detail by Trend and when he was ordered to the Tower of London Trend accompanied him in the prison coach from his home in Piccadilly. When ill health forced him to retire he gave up his regular office but continued his vast correspondence with Lady Byron dealing with post war problems like Reform (at 75 he addressed a London meeting 2000 strong on the eve of the Reform Bill) Robert Owen, Mathematics, education, railways & the wonders of modern science. In old age he joined all manner of societies - Statistical, Naturalists, Astronomical, The British Association - & attended most of their meetings, besides those of various Unitarian bodies which he considered a first duty & of University College London which he aided in founding. He was enthusiastic about new discoveries & inventions from the piping of gas for domestic lighting to the steam printing machine. "we esteem the author of the invention higher than all the generals of the age." His belief in scientific progress went with a deep religious conviction. At the age of 82 he wrote to Annabella Byron "I am near the end of my journey. I have seen enough to convince me that the whole system of human affairs is under the control of a wise & good being; how far the moral state of the world will be improved we cannot say but we have every reason to believe that the one will accompany the other, & every prejudice removed makes way for the progress of truth."

London

He died on February 21st 1891 in Tavistock Square after an attack of paralysis (in the same house where the present British Medical Association is situated).

It is difficult to estimate the influence that Kings Scher had on the remarkable personality; perhaps if he had been born after the Reform Bill he would have had an honored place in parliament as a reformer but perhaps his occasional streaks of eccentricity was belated by his memories of his early life at Garsington in the precincts.

Sources

Cobbett's Weekly Register 1808-on.

Archives Royal Insurance Co Liverpool
(London Rock Insurance Co)

Ms Freda Jones Librarian Jesus College
Cambridge.

Curator Royal Museum Garsington.

Crabbe Robinsons diary.

Gentlemen magazine 1891.

Paul Pollak : QUERIES.

1. I cannot ascertain which house was Mr. BEAUVOIRS

2. 2nd Krangle ~~means~~ means I believe 2nd in order of 1st class and not 2nd class.

3. Allways' friend was a scholar ship to Christa I am not sure if he was a scholar at Kings.

4. PHOTOS + DRAWINGS.

a) There is one from the Royal Insurance Co Liverpool showing the Rock on the Acropolis behind which stood the Treasury of Athens.

→ * insert 'reproduced by permission of the Royal Insurance Co Liv.'

b) Killian's friends father's business in the Long Walk.

→ * insert 'reproduced by permission of the Royal Museum Canterbury'

c) picture of Killian's ^{friend} from a statute in the library of Jesus College Cambridge. This apparently was so heavy that it had to be hauled down by 4 men to be put on a table + they originally charged me £8 + vat I have got this reduced to £5 + vat pleading that Messrs Pilkington, Allen, Hattree et al were former members of the college + I wonder if you have any funds to settle this from previous ^{sales} ~~admission~~. If not I will settle it full but please let me know early in December.

→ * insert 'reproduced by permission of the heads of Jesus College Cambridge'

William Ainslie Friend.

Admitted to Christ's as a pensioner on the recommendation of
Archbishop Moore. (1775) 2nd son of George Frodeson + Anne Mayne.

b. Nov. 22 1757. King's School to Beauvoir. Math's hield 1776 Scholar 1776.
B.A. 2nd Wrangler + second Smith's prize 1780; migrated to Jesus M.A. 1783. Fellow
of Jesus 1781-1808 Tutor - pupils E.O. Clark the Traveller Copley + others political
Germans. Completed his education at St Omer 1780 from where he went to Quebec
+ served in the American War for a few weeks. Ordained deacon June 28th 1780
Priest 1783 c. of Knapwell Cambridge. V. of Longstantia Au Sault + Readingly.
Declined the post of tutor to Archdeacon ^{Giles} Alexander I.

1787 Became a Unitarian, removed from the tutorship in consequence of
his denunciation of Church abuses + condemnation of the liturgy. 1788. Traveller
with Richard Tylden 1773 on the continent. Returned to Cambridge + devoted himself
to Hebrew studies. His Treatise denouncing the war with Rome was condemned
+ he was ordered by the Vice Chancellors to retract it; on his refusal he was
banished from the university. Founder + secretary of the Rock Life Assurance Co; 1806-26

m. daughter of the Rev. Francis Blackmore of Bridwell York. Author An account
of the Proceedings of the University of Cambridge against William Friend + a sequel
1795 Principles of Algebra 1796; Evening Amusements a series of Astronomical
Lessons in 13 volumes. Memoirs of a Gentleman a poem with notes + illustrations
on natural history + Philosophy Society of Friends 1795 2ed. in which he
urged subscription by the rich for the relief of the poor; Principles of Taxation
1799 in which he urged a graduated system of income tax A letter on the
Slave trade; plea for universal education the National Debt + its true
course 1803 Ed. de Cantuarum hiscelly. Afflicted by paralysis 1840 +
died Feb 21st 1841. Tavistock Square

D.N.B 280-311

Gen. Magyie 1841.

Crab Robinsons diary