

Quayside Newcastle  
25 October 1897

Sir

I regret to inform you that from a variety of untoward Circumstances I have been obliged to suspend my payments and that a Commission of Bankrupts I have every reason to believe is about to be issued against me - I am induced to make this known unto you from the very condescending kindness I have so often experienced at your hands and in hope that in the event of any place falling vacant that you may deem me competent to supply I may have the advantage of your powerful Support and Influence -

I find from the Dulness of Trade that I cannot make a livelihood in the Bookselling Business and that I must seek for support in some other line I care not to what I turn myself, provided, I can make an honest living for myself and family which consist of my Wife and four Children, the eldest of whom is about Ten Years old and the Youngest about Three Months

Newcastle


25 Oct 1897

W. Ball

I have no doubt but that I shall immediately  
procure my Certificate but the thought of being for any length  
of time out of employment bears very heavily upon my mind  
I trust that your goodness will pardon the freedom I  
have taken and should I be so happy as through your  
benevolence to obtain a situation I can pledge myself  
to make it the one Business of my life not to discredit  
your Patronage

I am Sir

your faithful humble servant



To Freeing Bof.

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London



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John Bell

1745-1831

Bookeller

Publisher

"Bible Poets" 109 vols

1st ed London

1831