

27 October 1813,
19 Whitehall Place
The office for Lunatics.

Dear Mr. Thomas

Having great respect for your respectable parents, it is with great pain that I hear that your education (in some departments) has failed. Apart from virtue, good temper & a few other trifling points, cleanliness, & neatness of person, my dear Tommy, have always been considered important. The absence of these things, as well as certain positive defects in manners (rat-hunting, &c.) have indeed been denounced by the severer moralists.

A word — I am sure — is sufficient, for a person of your quick perceptions. Upon the

principle, that a nod is as good as a wink to a blind horse, I venture to remonstrate - mildly - with you - I suggest that the fact of your revelling, in puddles and rat holes, immediately after your warm (or cold, - it is immaterial) bath - is a fact that should not be repeated,

I am aware that a fact is a stubborn thing - but stubbornness, as well as other vices must be dealt with.

When I say this, I think that you will take it to heart. And I am certain that you will ^{not} defend these little irregularities of conduct, as the Yankees do, - who are

cutting their brother throats, and swear that it is all done for the sake of abolishing the slave trade.

With sincere respects for your respectable parents or guardians,

I am

Dear Tommy

Your sincere well wisher

Towler Ringwood.

(B. W. Crocker)

Humorous letter written
by Mr. Procter about little Tommy