

South Norwood.

Sep 23. 75.

My dear Sir,

I must beg of you to excuse my long delay in replying to V letter - My time has been a good taken up of late, & I was anxious to answer your enquiries as fully as I could - I thank you very much for the interesting document you have kindly sent me. It is curious that in the body of that document the Post's name is Split Coam - while his own signature is Cow - another proof I think that the pronunciation differed from the spelling - This was doubtless the cause of Mr Norton mis-spelling the name before he had received any letter from his friend -

Something in his life of the Poole mutation, & Sir Walter Raleigh created a Baronet in 1631 a man apparently of very good reputation

He died in 1664 aged 52. His grandson &
successor to his title was father of the first
Earl Cowper, Lord Chancellor of Ireland.
Cowper - one of 7 Judges of 7 Circuit of
Common Pleas - John Cowper DD Chap-
lain to Geo II. Brother of Boscawen &
father of the Poet was the Judge's second
son - The father of the first Earl Cow-
per & the ancestor of the Poet is probably
the Sir Wm Cowper referred to in your
memoir.

I have pleasure in sending you a portion
of a letter from John Norton to Mrs Norton
written the Autumn of 1718 - & preserved
by whom he was brought up - In my copy
of Mr Norton published by the Rev. Frs
Sawyer you will find a false account of his
interview with the most excellent woman,
& in the same Mr. a good deal about his
friend the Poet Cowper - I also wrote in
the Sep. number of the Leisure Hours
for 1871 a reply to a most virulent attack

both on Norton & Cowper which appeared
a little before this in Blackwood's Mag.
It is a lamentable thing that there
should have been so much misunderstand-
ing of the character & so much misinterpre-
tation of the facts connected with the lives
& intercourse of these good men. But it
is not to be wondered at when it is re-
membered that most of their critics had
little sympathy with their religious
views -

Respectfully
Very Dear Sir
Very faithfully yours
Josiah Bull

Josiah Bull
author
Project author