

Bethesday In Georgia May the 25th 1748—

To Messrs

The Revd Thomas Prince<sup>2</sup>

And the Revd Thomas Foxcroft

} Both of Boston New England

Reverend Gentlemen

According to Your Desire and my Promise, I'm now at the Orphan House founded by the Revd Mr Whitefield in Georgia:— and Since I'm Upon the Spott, & So many false Unreasonable aspersions 've been industriously Spread Abroad On Said House, I Look Upon My Self, bound in Duty to send You a particular Account of it (having been Here three weeks) from My Own Knowledge & observation, and This I will Do, in the Most Just and Impartial Manner possibly I Can. The Orphan House (Gent) Stands On a Rising Ground, having a Descent On all Sides,— On the North & South, are Yards about 120 feet long, planted with orange Trees. On the East, is a Water Passage to Carry You, to any part of Georgia, Carolina &c. it lyes Open for Severall Miles, and is Accounted Twelve Miles from the Sea. On the West (which is the front of the House) are four Small Houses Standing a proper Distance from the Great House, & from Each other, Above These, There is a beautiful Garden and a fine Orchard containing allmost all Sorts of fruits, Trees, & Herbs which the country will afford. A little further Up, There are two Inclosures for Cattel, in one (of which) are two houses, which were formerly Used for Sick Persons, at present are only for Lumber— farther West Still, is Cutt an avenue about 25 Rod Board, In Length half a mile— Att the Head of which, is a wide River fit to carry a large Vessel to Sea, here likewise it is open for many Miles. On the North Side of this avenue, a Road begins to Savannah which is Accounted Tweleve Miles. There is from the Orphan House About forty Acres of Land Clear'd Twenty for the benefit of the air, the other Twenty for Planting.

The Orphan House (Gent) is 60 by 40 being three Story High, Its foundation is Brick, 5 feet below the Earth, & the same above, Cellars all through the House.

2. Thomas Prince (1687-1758), Congregationalist minister, graduated from Harvard College in 1707. He was ordained as the colleague of the Rev. Joseph Sewall at Old South Church, Boston, October 1, 1718, and served there until his death on October 22, 1758. He was author of *A Chronological History of New England in the Form of Annals* (1736). For a fuller sketch see *Dictionary of American Biography*, XV (1935), 232-33. Thomas Foxcroft, Congregationalist minister, graduated from Harvard College in 1714. He served at First Church, Boston, from his ordination on November 20, 1717, to his death on June 18, 1769. Samuel Fayrweather graduated from Harvard in 1743. He was ordained on March 23, 1753, at Danvers Church, Salem, Mass.

The first Story, is 10 feet being pannell'd Work, Its Second Story is eight feet, being wheather boarded, it has a hip Roof With Dormant Windows. It has a Piazza all around of 10 feet Broad, Near 20 feet high. It has four Ways to Go into, one on Every Side ascending with Six Steps. It has twenty Rooms which are in the Following Manner.

At the South on the first Story, are two handsome Parlours wainscoated in the best Manner, between is an Entry With Stairs, The Entry leads to a Handsome Hall about 26 feet Square (The West part of the House) On the East is a Chappel, which is Twenty four feet long & 12 Broad, These also Wainscoated Very Neatly. The North End of the House is the same to the South (only with this Difference The Rooms are plaisterd.

One of the Rooms is appropriated to the Use of a Study In which is an Excellent Library, & a Charming Parcell of Doctors Drugs. The other is Call'd the Servants & Children's Hall where they Eat their meals. The Second Story has eight Rooms having a Noble Gallery between, Reaching from Stairs to Stairs, four Rooms on a Side which are plaisterd With Cornishes On the Top, the Stairs Continue in the Same Manner to the third Story where are Six Rooms (which are plaisterd) all the Rooms are finish'd Except one or Two Which Want Chimneys. The four small Houses before Mention'd are much of one Size being 30 by 20, fram'd and wheather boarded. The first on the North Side is the School House having two Rooms below, & a large one above—all which are plaisterd & Cornish'd. Opposite to this (on the South) is the other House built in the same Manner. This House is, where the women Eat, work & Sleep Seperate from the Rest of the Family. A little further are the Wash House and Kitchin Standing North & South, besides Two necessary Houses.

The Order of the House (Gent) is as Follows. Att five oClock (in Summer) and Six in Winter, the Bell Rings to Call all the family Out of their Beds, half an Hour is allow'd to wash & perform Secret Duties, Then the Bell Rings Again, to Call every One to Publick Prayers in the Chappel, The Person that performs is either the Master of the House, or School Master. HE first Sings a Suitable Hymn for the morning then Reads a Chapter out of the Sacred Scriptures, then Prays Suitable To the Occasion. Afterwards All Go to their proper Work, The Children Some of them Spin, others Pick Cotton &c. at eight oClock the Bell Rings Again, to call all to Breakfast in the Hall before mentioned. After breakfast a Hymn is Sung, then they are Discharged. In an Hour or Less the Bell Rings to Call to School att twelve oClock it Rings to Dinner in the Same Manner as breakfast. At Two oClock it Rings for School Again which Continues till 5 oClock. At Sun Sett the Bell Rings for Supper. After Supper

the family is Calld to Prayers, which is perform'd in the same Manner as in the Morning Except in the Room of a Chapter is Read Dr Guisess Paraphrase Or Mr Henry If no preacher is Here Then the Children Repair to Bed, Each One Prays Extempore or else from Some Scriptural form before He Lyes Down.

In the School the Children are Taught Latin, Arithmitick, Writing, and Reading, and All the Exercises are Carried on with Prayer before and after.

The Children are Taught Dr. Wattss Catechism with the Articles of the Church of England.

Att present (Gentlemen) Here are 25 Souls, (Since Mr Whitefield found it necessary to Reduce his Family) whereof eighteen are Children, all Orphans Except Two, which are Sent for their Education whose Parents pay for it. Here is One School Master, 2 women Servants & 4 Men Servants, 2 of which are Lads Bound for a Certain Time.

In the Orphan House Hall, their [*sic*] is a large Board Hung Up On which is the Following Inscription

Vizt                      This House  
                              Was Erected in the Year of Our Lord  
                              1739 by Contributions Collected By  
                              The Revd Mr George Whitefield.<sup>3</sup>

Thus (Reverend Gentlemen) I've Given You, as Particular & impartial Account of the Orphan House it Self, the Scituation, & orders of it, & of every Thing belonging to it, as You Coud Reasonably Desire, & what Use You May think proper of putting This To, I leave. If You May Esteem it worthy of a Publication, You have Gentlemen, Intirely My Consent—and if any afterwards should Doubt of the truth of any Thing I've advanc'd In My Account, I woud only answer and Say as Phillip to Nathaniel Let them *Come and See*.

Your Humble Servant  
 Samuel Fayrweather

This Account taken by me  
 at Bethesday May 25th  
 1748

3. Whitefield began collecting contributions for the orphan house in 1739. He laid the first brick on March 25, 1740.