

# Letters from Sarah Rowntree

Extracts from two letters written by Sarah Rowntree on "26<sup>th</sup> day 8<sup>th</sup> month 1854" (i.e. Friday 26 August 1854) to her son John, then aged 20, living away from York.

One is written in the week of the York races.

"I hardly know how far thou may be informed of home proceedings, so I will write as if though had not been written to this week.

I am very much better, though this is the first day that I have sat up much and I am still in my own room, but I now hope to be about as usual in a very short time; it is delightful to be again able to go about and wait on myself, to a degree that I believe cannot be understood by anyone, who has not been a prisoner to bed....Thy dear father and Joe I am glad to say are nicely; and I think we shall soon be in better plight altogether, as least I hope so....It was so cool on fourth day that Joe wished for his flannel waistcoat and I have thought perhaps I had better send thy winter waistcoats, when opportunity offers. If thy Alpaca coat is too cool thou can readily get a cloth one. Say if thou would like thy winter

waistcoat sent. This week has been race week and the city has presented a most uninviting aspect. The sounds only, not the sights, have reached me..."

8 mo 29 1854

"The apples are beginning to fall partly however I think in consequence of a brisk wind which we have had along with the great heat; and the plums are ready for use and very fine; Joe enjoys them and probably take some for the Pavement circle in a day or two...On looking at the barometer I see there is a considerable fall, so possibly a change of weather may be nigh."