

Historical Report on 2nd Draft
A Place Called Freedom

Dear Mr. Follett,

This report will be considerably shorter than the last, since, although I have checked many details, you usually turned out to be in the right.

In general I feel that the revisions you have made in the plot have softened the difficulties with class I mentioned last time. You have retained some of the aspects I considered problematic, such as the fact that Scottish miners did not object particularly to their serf status, which was seen as a protection, and that mine-owners found it more of an inconvenience than otherwise. The coal-heavers' strike is also still presented somewhat as a situation concocted by the upper classes. I was pleased to find the heavers behaving at least potentially violently, with Mack as a restraining influence, although you might have emphasized more that actual violence was taking place (e.g., firing on ships to prevent them from being unloaded). But I still have some problems with the idea of the authorities trying to drive the heavers to violence to make repressive action publicly acceptable. This would not have been necessary, for three reasons: first, the heavers were already violent enough on their own, without provocation; second, the government was terrified of violence, and was not at all anxious to stir it up, but rather to calm it down; and third, the property-owning (and thus vote-holding) population would not have been happy about industrial disputes in the first place, and the government

could have been confident of their support in this case. The tone of the Gentleman's Magazine for 1768 gives one a clue; it is uniformly disapproving of the coal-heavers in its reports on the situation.

The behaviour of women in the book still strikes me as rather forward. You cleverly dodge this issue by making Lizzie unusually unconcerned about social conventions; it is a good solution, but it might work better if you made other people more shocked and surprised by her. In particular, Jay would probably be astonished at her forwardness in offering herself in marriage and also in allowing him to fondle her before marriage. These are actions which a woman of a lower social class might have taken, but not often someone of Lizzie's status. In the same way, the social difference between Mack and Lizzie is one which would have been much more shocking to their contemporaries, and especially to themselves, than you portray it to have been. Mack would have had to be exceptionally daring, and Lizzie to some degree amazed at herself, to have crossed this divide when they eventually get together.

The issue which worries me the most is linguistic. The dialogue is still very twentieth-century in tone and form; eighteenth-century speech would be more indirect, with more clauses and more niceties and insertion of terms of respect. (Jane Austen is rather late, but her dialogue might be a model.) As I said in the last report, I can understand the difficulties of attempting contemporary style, but at the moment the dialogue is so jarringly modern that it quite takes

away the eighteenth-century atmosphere you are trying to convey. I wonder if some compromise might be struck (see my earlier suggestion of using titles --"sir," "madam" -- frequently in the middle of sentences). No.

Specific comments

p.8: Like George III and his Tory courtiers, they said the king was appointed by God: Divine right was not the prevailing theory, even at court, since the Glorious Revolution. George III, of all the 18th-century monarchs, was the most happy to acknowledge his status as a constitutional monarch; it was Parliament which ultimately was sovereign. Locke's arguments were used by the establishment (not radicals) to justify the power of the property-owning classes. ✓

p. 8: Few miners could read: quite a few could, because of owners' schools in Scotland. X

p. 9: long speeches reported verbatim: reporting Parliamentary speeches verbatim was illegal, although approximate accounts were given in newspapers and magazines. X

p. 9: this clash of abstract theories was drawing real blood in London, Paris and Boston: please could you get rid of this sentence, as it is completely anachronistic. No blood was being drawn in any of these places over abstract theories. In London, if any blood was being drawn, it was because of industrial disputes which had little to do with politics; in Paris nothing of the kind would happen for 22 years; and the Boston Massacre would not happen until 1770. ✓

p. 10: had worked down the mine for fifteen hours: see my last report for 1st draft p. 19: the regime was not this hard. X

p. 13: Alderman of Wapping: again, there were only aldermen for the City of London, which Wapping was outside. ✕

p. 19: There's plenty to do keeping the mob under control: As before, I find this problematic. Unless there was an actual riot going on, troops would not normally be posted in London. ✕

p. 28: liberal leader: the word "liberal" is not used in this way at this period; Wilkes was always known as a radical. ✕

p. 44: romance: not a word used in this fashion at that time. Try "love." ✕

p. 62: Henry Jamisson: you mean Drome. ✓

p. 67: her pert bottom wriggling: since crawling on the ground would not have been ladylike, this might be a place for someone, e.g. Jay, to be surprised by Lizzie's actions. ✓

p. 69: As a magistrate in London he had sent dozens of men, women and children to the gallows: not directly, since he would only have committed them to trial. Could this be modified a bit? ✓

p. 78-9: Father had decided he wanted me to learn all about the business: why, when he was not going to inherit? ✓

p. 83: he kissed her: this would ordinarily be out of line, so you might make that the reason for Lizzie's surprise. ✓

p. 84: her most horrifying shock: Lizzie would not have been shocked at women working down the mine. She must have known about this, living so near a mine, and people in this period were used to women doing heavy manual labour. ✕

p. 84: In her world women never said "damn": Alicia said damn on p. 50 (she probably would not have done in real life, however). ✓

pp. 105-6: Lady Hallim...scrubbed Lizzie's back: Lizzie would have had a maid. Even though the Hallims were poor, they would have had servants (even many artisan families did). X

pp. 129-30: The kiss and proposal are both unlikely -- surprise might be in order here. ✓

p. 134: sugar is a problem, you've always said: sugar was hardly a problem, but the most profitable crop in the world in the 18th century. You could say something about how capital-intensive it is (requires a lot of equipment), but then that is also true of mining. ✓

p. 134: back yard: sounds a bit American. Garden? X

p. 143: silk petticoats: she would be wearing stronger material than silk, to bear the strength of the hoops: probably linen. There might be an outer petticoat of silk but this would essentially be the middle panel of the skirt of her dress, and thus not removeable for these purposes. ✓

p. 157: Rugby Street: this street was called Chapel Street until 1936. This was not all that nice a location; you might consider putting them in one of the new squares in the area, like Red Lion Square or Bedford Square. Westminster: at this point too unspecific a term to denote anywhere very fashionable: try "St. James's." ✓

p. 158: kiss: again rather daring. X

p. 179: cottoned to it: a 20th-century expression. X

p. 179-80: The Bear, a large tavern with a coffee room and several bars: you have already given this description on p. 153. ✓

p. 182: git: 20th-century word. X

p. 183: shooting them into a sack: you have the heavers in the hold of a ship shoveling coal into sacks; in fact they would shovel the coal onto lighters and then into sacks when they reached the shore. ✓

p. 187: how much money he had made this week: I would be surprised if they were paid by the week rather than the day. X

p. 189: bar bills: modern feel to this phrase; try "drink."

pp. 189-90: I still disagree with your figures on pay; see my previous report. X

p. 191: you pay for fifteen shillings' worth of liquor, whether you drink it or not: this was not the system. People simply did drink a great deal while working, and they had to drink what the undertaker provided. X

p. 193: fired: dismissed. "Fired" is from the late 19th century. ✓

p. 198: William Pitt, the leader of the government: the chief minister at this point was the Duke of Grafton, not Chatham. ✓

p. 213: our trade with America has fallen very low: I'm not too clear on what this debt question is about. The Jamissons are not trading with America per se, but in fact are American traders. The demand for tobacco is rising at this point (from about 1765) and prices are rising, so if the Jamissons' plantation is functioning it ought to be making quite a bit of money. The problem might come from the fact that they are operating on borrowed money. One of the reasons that the colonies were so upset with British economic regulation is that they were already upset by ending up in debt to British (and especially Scottish) creditors. They found themselves

flush and were granted easy credit terms, but it was difficult for them to pay for imports because they didn't have the capital, especially after their trade with the French Caribbean was restricted. This might be the Jamissons' problem, although since they also had major operations in Britain itself -- coal and convicts -- it ought not to have affected them much. So I am not certain what the trouble...in the colonies is supposed to be doing to the Jamissons' trade, especially as they are not trying to import anything (except convicts) to the colonies, but rather export sugar and tobacco from there. If you want to know more, you might look at Allan Kulikoff, Tobacco and Slaves, pp. 100ff.; John McCusker and Russell Menard, The Economy of British America; and Ernst and Egnal, "Economic Origins of the American Revolution," William and Mary Quarterly new series 29 (1972) 1-32.

x

p. 224-5: the bedding ceremony was probably not still in use by people of this class. I'm not entirely sure about this, though, so don't feel compelled to discard it.

x

p.238: they shouted jokes: you could emphasize the way that criminals about to be hanged were fêted by the crowd and treated as heroes.

x

p. 239: a rag over his eyes: usually a hat.

x

p. 239: stared out of open, terrified eyes: these would be covered.

✓

pp. 241: she got there in a quarter of an hour or so: 15 minutes is quite fast by foot from Oxford Street to the Inns of Court (especially from Marble Arch).

✓

p.250: liberal hero: radical hero.

x

- p. 251: Wilkesite: Wilkite. X
- p. 252: the undertakers have a lot of votes: I'm not sure about this. You would have to be a freeman of the City and a householder to vote for an alderman. The question is whether tavern-keepers influence this type of person. It's possible (though of course there was no Alderman of Wapping); maybe you should make it clearer by saying directly that undertakers are tavern-keepers, and they can influence people's votes. X
- p. 266: strike: word not yet in use. X
- p. 271: royal court: court. X
- p. 271: They want you top scare the middle classes: as I mentioned above, this would not have been the case. Middle classes: middling sort. X ✓
- p. 275: 8 o'clock a.m.: 8 o'clock. ✓
- p. 276: office in Westminster: in Whitehall. ✓
- p. 278: What I'd like to see....: this whole paragraph, again, X is dubious. The magistracy would not have needed to trump up charges, as the rioters were already violent. Also, since the Riot Act did not require firearms used against officers of the Crow[^], and numerous people killed and injured for people to be charged with a felony, but only failure to disperse after one hour, why should Armstrong be demanding death and injury? I wonder whether this couldn't be dealt with in the same way you have treated the violence of the heavens; Mack is a calming influence but perhaps, as he is the ringleader, they could get him into a situation in which he appeared to be inciting riot.
- p. 279: rickety wooden building: brick: wood was not allowed in London since the Great Fire. ✓

p. 282: egg yolk in his beard: no one wore beards at this time. ✓

p. 284: Lord Archer's coffee house: the atmosphere you describe here is much more like a tavern than a coffee house. Women, and especially prostitutes, would not have been found in coffee houses; coffee houses did not serve spirits; and they were much more subdued places for reading newspapers and having conversation and political discussion. Couldn't this be a tavern called The Lord Archer? X

p. 287: he never held open court: what does this mean? Do you mean he was not a judge, but just a JP? ✓

p. 293: owner of the yard: coal-broker. X

p. 294: I hereby declare a riot: he probably wouldn't say anything like this. Usually JPs tried for some time to calm the crowd before reading the Riot Act, although I accept that this was not the goal here. But "declare a riot" seems strange. Once a riot had been declared: once the Riot Act had been read. Defiance was punishable by death: it was a felony -- a capital sentence was possible but obviously frequently not imposed. X

p. 296: to his horror, Mack heard the bang of a musket: this would not have been the first time in the riots that guns were used. X

p. 302: Lizzie was busy putting their wedding presents into waterproof chests...She folded all her stockings...: servants would have done this, although Lizzie would direct them. ✓

p. 302: It was a whole new continent and nobody seemed quite sure how big it was: America was not that new; it had been

discovered nearly 300 years earlier. By this time its contours had been fairly well explored and mapped out, except on the northern reaches. ✓

p. 303: To her surprise he was...an untidy, short-sighted man: why is Lizzie surprised at Gordonson's appearance when she has already met him (p. 242)? ✓

p. 305: Reverend Mr. York: just "Mr. York." pastor of our church in Heugh: he was not pastor of the Hallim's church, but the church the Jamissons and the miners used, as you said on p. 23. ✓

p. 307: a dog and a pig: I doubt these would be in the prison. ✗

p. 307: prisoners' wives who spent nights here: you might mention that they could only do this by bribing the jailers. ✓

p. 308: older-sister common sense: Esther is his twin sister. ✓

p. 309: offered Peg a pardon: it's possible it might be put that way, although of course it wasn't entirely in Jamisson's hands whether she was pardoned or not. ✗

p. 311: if Jay tells the court: Gordonson would not refer to Jay by his first name: Mr. Jamisson, or Jamisson. ✗

p. 314: its long day of trials: you might want to emphasize how quick the trials were -- usually less than half an hour.

p. 314: They both pleaded guilty: if so, then why were there any witnesses? Also, I can't see why Cora didn't plead innocent. It isn't the case that, as you say on p. 315, if Peg were not hanged it was unlikely her accomplice would be. ✗ ✓

p. 328: As children they were hard to tell apart: as Mack and Esther were of different sexes, they had to have been

fraternal, rather than identical twins, and thus would not have looked any more similar to each other than any other brother and sister. x

p. 331: Jay, the man who was prosecuting the case: Jay is not the prosecutor in your new version of events; the Crown is prosecuting under the Riot Act and has hired a lawyer to fight its case. However, as Jay was the soldier leading the troops involved in the case, that might also be influential. ✓

p. 334: Peg Knapp is reprieved: again, the reprieves in a London court would not have been announced until several days later. Only if you had the cases tried outside of London and Middlesex would they be announced on the day. (I realize this ruins the scene, and that perhaps you have chosen to disregard history in this case. But this isn't a guess on the part of historians.) ✓

p. 338: It was a warm spring morning: The riots themselves took place in late May and June, and the executions of rioters occurred in late July. So presumably the transportations would also have been in mid-summer. X

p. 345: "Lizzie!" said a voice: Mack would not call her this. He would say "Mrs. Jamisson." The difference in social class has a long way to go before it's breached to this degree; even most of her own friends would not have called her Lizzie. ✓

p. 350: housewives: really a 19th-century term. X

p. 354: soul drivers: would come at the end, not the beginning of a sale, to take the dregs that no one else wanted. x

p. 356: lover boy: an expression from the 1960's. X

p. 363: He had not set eyes on her since ...the Old Bailey:
he talked to her on board ship on p. 345. ✓

p. 370: Bill and Suzy Delahaye: rather informal; William for Bill, in any case. **NB re Suzy Delahaye:** she is called **Kate** on pp. 393 and 442. ✓

p. 372: Keith: not a very 18th-century name. ✓

p. 372: The idea that governments got their authority from the consent of the people was put about by fools and traitors: on the contrary, this was the usual view, including among Tories, in 18th-century England. ✓

p. 375: Hoping to be, dear Mr Jamisson...: The standard form is:

...I am sure a lender could be found without difficulty.

I remain, Sir,

Your most humble and obedient servant

Matthew Murchman ✓

p. 377: took over the management of the estate: why is Robert managing the estate of his sister-in-law? I assume that the reason is that he has called in the mortgages, but Lizzie must be wondering about what right he has to it. On p. 378 she is angry, but she doesn't stop to wonder what has happened. ✓

p. 380: indoor slaves: house slaves. ✓

p. 412: Lizzie was talking animatedly: you mean Cora. ✓

p. 415: the William and Mary College: the College of William and Mary. ✓

p. 416: wine merchant welcoming his customers to a tasting: I don't think there were wine-tastings in this era. x

p. 416: "There's a big card game tomorrow night": this has a

20th-century ring. The term at the time would be "a rout," but you might want to say "there will be much play" or "playing at cards."

p. 426: This letter is quite blunt, especially at the beginning; it would have a few niceties (as would any business letter at this time). The diction of this (as well as of the earlier letter from Lady Hallim) is also very modern. If you would like, I could help make it more 18th-century sounding.

p. 429: Partie de New Jersey: Partie de Nouvelle Jersey, usually, on French maps.

p. 431: Put her in the drawing-room: unlikely. The kitchen would be a more likely place.

p. 434: Doctor Finch won't come out at this time of night for no nigger girl: the doctor probably would come, not for humanitarian reasons, but because the slave is a planter's property and the doctor would be damaging the planter's interests by allowing her to die.

p. 443: a crib: a cradle.

p. 474: It sounds as if the colonists are ready to rebel: I don't think anyone would have thought so at this point.

p. 484: It was Jay's mother, Alicia: It isn't clear why Alicia has come to America. Why did she not just write? This is a journey which was not taken lightly at that time. I have the same question about Robert's arrival in America, which seems to have occurred for the sole purpose of gloating over Jay. Given the dangers of the trip and the length of time it took, both these journeys seem unlikely to me.

p. 485: "Hell," she swore: She would not have sworn (nor would she have said "damn it," as she does on p. 50). It also seems incredible that she would not have heard about the stillborn child by this time. x

p. 502: ancient buffalo hunting track: buffalo tended not to get quite this far east and were not a much-hunted animal outside the plains. x

p. 509: After that there's real mountains, that nobody's ever crossed: this is untrue. People were already settling beyond the mountains. x

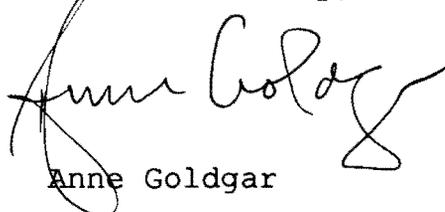
p. 514: sidekick: 20th-century ring to this word. x

p. 535: kid: modern usage. x

p. 540: he seemed to think he would be admired for capturing her: there might well have been a reward on her head. x

I hope these comments are helpful and not excessively pedantic. Please let me know if I can be of further use. I have a good ear for 18th-century language, if that might be of any help to you.

Yours sincerely,



Anne Goldgar