Caspar Morris notes 1994

A
B

The letters in this first part of this volume are from Mr & Mrs Bensley to Mr and Mrs James Chester. Mrs Bensley was the daughter of Dr Daniel Chester, and Mrs Vanderhayden, who had been twice married before her union with Dr Chester first to Mr Bradley & then to Mr Stevenson. On the death of Dr Chester ~~the children~~ who had lived at Chester Town she went to England with her children & lived at Bristol or Gloucester. The letters ~~are~~ give the place from which Dr Chester came. Mr James Chester entered in trade with America in partnership with Randolph of Bristol & his half brother Stevenson & came to America. Mrs Chester was a beautiful girl & there is a romantic legend of her having been rescued from danger caused by a runaway horse, by Mr Bensley a young Naval Officer who was a nephew of Mr William Bensley afterwards Sir William an East India Civil Servant, & subsequently one of the Directors of the East India Company. They were married and his income being insufficient for their support he went on the stage & performed in connexion with Garrick & Mrs Siddons. Such was his occupation at the period at which these letters were written. It would appear to have afforded them more than the mere comforts of life, & the letters afford instances of great worth of personal character. He ~~was~~ subsequently received an appointment as paymaster in the army through the friendly offices of Mr Wyndham, and finally inherited from his Uncle a handsome fortune. Mr & Mrs Bensley adopted ~~the~~ child of a sister of Mrs Bensley named Thorahill whose parents sent him to

C
D
E
F

Eton & had not met the Caspers who are Roman Catholics. In 1836 Mr Morris was a great invalid - had gone to England for health and did not wish to intrude on Mr Thornhill with whom he had connexion, even no relationship of blood. He was at that time one of the Directors of the East India Company. Impelled by curiosity the day before we ~~left~~ designed to leave London, I called at the India House & sent my card & was at once heartily welcomed by Mr J. with the most frank & generous expressions of regard for a representative of the family of Mr Bensley. He insisted we should not leave London till we visited his family which lived in great Elegance at Balham Hill a few miles from London where he invited us to dine. We did so & had a very pleasant & captivating in a happy family of excellent Christian people. Father and sons & daughters. Before we left he went to an escritoire on the room and took from a drawer a gold chain which he presented to Mrs Morris as having been worn by her great Aunt. That chain is in the possession of Mrs James H. Murray - Fanny - of Cedar Park.

In several of the letters of Mr Bensley reference is made to their brother Daniel. His career was a very sad one. Bad at that time & he came home and were supporting his brother James very seriously in a pecuniary way & ruining his own character. He was supported by his brother James & Mrs Bensley, and left had a son who