

Meeting People

So good evening to you James Murray
I hope that you are well
If only you knew what you are starting
With the stories that you tell

Yes Thomas Spence, I will take a pamphlet
For I know your ideas are wise
But you just be careful now
And look out for those government spies

Well if it isn't the famous Thomas Bewick
You're surely playing your part
Showing the rich the suffering of the poor
Through the majesty of your art

I recognise that face it's Thomas Hepburn
Miners leader strong and brave
I'm glad you don't know what happened to the miners
You would surely turn in your grave

There's the Richardson sisters from Newcastle
With the money to free a slave
So Frederick Douglass can go on to advise Lincoln
And campaign for civil rights to his grave

And how are you Joseph Cowen?
I don't think you would be best pleased
If you were here with us today
And saw how we treat refugees

And there's Emily Davison
Northumbrian Suffragette Martyr
What would you think of how women fare today
And the brave schoolgirl Malala?

Let's remember those who blazed such a fine trail
For us today to follow
But what will people say about our lives
In the poems of tomorrow?

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