

To Rachel Priestman.

Sydney N.S. Wales 6/5 Mo: 1836.

My dear friend

Rachel Priestman.

A much longer time has elapsed than I could have wished since I addressed thee personally; yet having written twice or thrice to thy dear Mother I have felt the less uneasy, knowing that thereby I really address you both. Being now about to despatch a couple of sheets of the Journal, No. 66 & 67, by the Platonia, I feel desirous of delaying no longer the pleasure of conversing with thee, at the same time that I take occasion to thank thee for thy two letters, one dated the 7th & the other the 10th Month of last year. The first of these I received when at Oyster Bay, V. D.: the other soon after our return to this place in 2nd Month, when I also had the pleasure of receiving a third, dated 4th Mo: 1835, which had laid for some months at the Bathurst Post Office, through an oversight, having been sent after us at the period when we visited that portion of the interior. I feel greatly obliged to thee for these offerings of friendship, for thou art become my only regular correspondent.

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2 But for thee, & occasionally, thy dear mother, the only medium of information concerning my friends in England would be that of J. Backhouse's letters. Happily he is in the regular receipt of a letter from York, besides others occasionally from various quarters, about once a month.

[We have just returned from a voyage to Moreton Bay, our furthest Northern limit,] having been favoured to accomplish our visit to that Penal Settlement, on the whole, satisfactorily, the same gracious help & protection being extended for our preservation which have hitherto been marvellously vouchsafed during the whole course of our lengthened travels. [We are both in the enjoyment of a fair portion of health.] I still feel slightly the remote effects of the fever I had about the middle of last year, in a constant ringing in my ears, & when the physical energies are much run down, some nervous sensations that are far from pleasant, & are not easily described. A night's rest, however, usually dissipates them; [and on the whole] my dear Companion & myself [are as able to endure fatigue] as, perhaps, at any period since we parted from our respective homes & their attendant comforts. Our hearts are, I believe, often filled with gratitude to our Almighty Deliverer & Helper, our never-failing Friend, for these & many other undeserved blessings. What, indeed, can we render unto the Lord for all his benefits?

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Returning from Moreton Bay in the Govt Schooner, Isabella, we were driven into the port of Newcastle, the entrance to the River Hunter, partly owing to stress of weather, and partly to lack of provisions, being nearly aground in regard to the latter, with about 50 souls on board. In consequence of some days detention at Newcastle, was opened for a visit to the Missionary Estab^t. on the borders of Lake Macquarie, between Port Hunter & Sydney, conducted by Lancelot Edw^d. Threlkeld. This Individual was originally connected with the London Missionary Society, having laboured for some years in the Islands of the S^o. Pacific. The death of his wife whilst there, induced him to undertake a voyage to N. S. Wales, intending to proceed to England. Meeting however when at Sydney with the Deputation, D. Tyerman & Geo. Bennett, who were determined upon setting on foot a Mission to the Aborigines of this land, & being regarded by them as the most suitable person to undertake the important object; L. E. Threlkeld was induced to accept the appointment, having first formed a suitable connection in marriage, in the Colony. After five or six years prosecution of his labours, the expense exceeding the ~~attention~~ anticipations of the Directors, the Mission was abandoned; greatly to the chagrin of L. E. Threlkeld, whose heart was deeply engaged in the work: at
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4 the same time, much blame was imputed to him, for having entailed such a large amount of expenditure on the Society. Yet in looking over the accounts, which have been submitted to our minute inspection, it does not appear to us that any items of importance could well have been avoided, considering the circumstances under which the Mission was conducted, & the high prices of British Goods, & of labour, at that period, in the Colony. The Society, or the Committee of Management at least, proceeded to such a length in testifying its disapprobation of the Missionary's proceedings, as to actually dishonour his Bills to the amount of £400, thereby subjecting him to inconceivable perplexity, anxiety, & distress; & subjecting themselves ultimately, to the additional expense of more than one-fifth of that amount, as they had to pay the Bills, subsequently, with the addition of costs of Law, &c. The whole of the outlay on buildings erected on a Grant of ten thousand acres, held in trust for the Society, of the Government, — conditionally, that ~~should~~ the Mission should not be abandoned, or the property converted to other uses, — was thereby sunk & irrecoverably lost; as by the terms of the tenure, on the abandonment of the Mission, the property reverted to the Government. As might be expected, a rupture between the Society & their Missionary was the result, & their

connection together closed. L.E. Threlkeld was, however,⁵
too much interested in the work hastily to renounce it. Having gained the promise of four Assigned Servants & their rations of food from the Colonial Gov^t, & a Grant of 1280 acres (two sections) on the usual grounds that entitled Emigrants to a Grant of land at that period, - with these slender resources, he re-commenced the Mission, on the opposite shores of the Lake, on a spot not the most favourable, certainly, for the prosecution of his agricultural interests, but very eligible as regarded one important object in connection with the Mission, which was to fix upon a spot that would ensure the constant resort of a great number of Blacks. His zeal & disinterestedness, under circumstances most depressing & discouraging, soon excited the sympathy of some benevolent persons in the Colony, who had every opportunity of judging & duly appreciating the merits of L.E. Threlkeld, from their connections & residence on the spot. In a short time after his dismissal by the Society, Archdeacon Broughton & his friends spontaneously came forward with a small pecuniary assistance, & by their interest with the Colonial Government, a regular stipend of £.150 a year in aid of the Mission was awarded, for a period of not less than five years (which is still
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continued) in order that it might be carried on the more successfully. For with a wife & family (at the present time consisting of nine children) to maintain, it was not to be supposed that a Missionary could make much advance in the ^{kind of} work L. E. Threlkeld had engaged in, unless he was rendered in some degree independent of his farm, on which every thing was then to do, & which to this day has not supplied him with sufficient wheat for domestic use. In principle L. E. Threlkeld is more nearly an Independent than any thing else, but he has expressly stipulated that he be allowed to conduct the Mission in a way that accords with his own conscientious views, his ostensible & primary object being, to evangelize the Heathen, irrespective of mere creeds or systems of human invention; he has at the same time engaged to furnish a report at least once a year to the Government, or to the Archdeacon when in the Colony, it being understood that neither party compromises his principles by the coalition.

The peculiar position in which L. E. Threlkeld is thus placed, has given his adversaries (few good men are without them) a handle that has been made the most of, & very deeply has he been aspersed in print. Our visit has much confirmed us in the impression, that great credit is due to him for his zeal & disinterestedness under the pressure of.

heart-discouraging circumstances; & after having inspected
his accounts & correspondence, at his own request, we not only
consider him deserving the esteem & confidence of his Christ-
ian friends, but regard ^{Director of} the London Missionary Society as
decidedly mistaken in their estimate of L. E. Thielkeld's
character, under the influence of which we think he has
been very harshly dealt with. He has however made some
important steps tow^d the attainment of the ultimate objects
contemplated in the establish^t. of the Mission, which it
must necessarily have required a course of years to realize:
he has acquired a proficiency in the language of that part of
the coast of Australia comprehended between Broken Bay
& Port Macquarie (including a population of probably 2,000
Blacks) greater than that of any who have yet studied the
Native dialects; enabling him to publish several elementary
works, but more particularly a Grammar, of the native
Tongue, that must greatly facilitate the acquisition of the
language by others who may follow in his steps. He has
also become acquainted with the national character, habits,
& dispositions of this interesting portion of our race; & in the
course of the association that has been kept up between
him & them, he has supplied many of them with food, by
which this amicable intercourse has been promoted, & a
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8 certain degree of advance on their part towards civilization has been effected. Acting likewise as Interpreter & Mediator, between the Aborigines & the Colonial Authorities, in all cases where the English Laws, & customs of society bring them into collision, he has acquired a considerable degree of influence over the Blacks, which he does not fail to exert for their benefit, & that of the community at large. He is now instructing a few of the Native Youths to read & write in their Mother tongue, & is prosecuting the general objects of the mission, at the same time that he is carrying forward a Translation of the Scriptures, of which he has completed the Gospel of Luke. — I have been thus particular in noticing this subject, & the impression produced on our minds by our visit to Lake Macquarie, knowing that statements have been made in print highly injurious to L. E. Threlkeld's character, & for which, in one instance, the author of the libel has been visited with a prosecution, the only means the injured party considered he had left of vindicating his character from undeserved imputations. I mean to send herewith, a copy of the trial in which J. Backhouse and myself were subpoenaed to give evidence, though in many respects less competent to do so then than we are now. Had the jury which decided the case been composed of persons prepared to estimate in its full extent religious character

and worth, I cannot but believe a very different verdict, in regard to damages, would have been awarded. The plaintiff gained, notwithstanding, a verdict & nominal damages with the costs.

[We received a call this morning from] J. C. S. Handt, formerly [a Missionary] at Wellington Valley: his wife is in a very delicate state of health, & he has brought her to town, & does not design returning to his Station. He & W^m Watson, his former Colleague, cannot act together harmoniously, with their conflicting views & dispositions, & under these circumstances it is certainly better that they should part.

[Persons are educated for the Ministry, or for Missionaries, with some merely general desires to benefit their fellow creatures, but without letting their exercises mature, so as to assume a specific direction & aim; or] if they do this, by [placing themselves under the direction of communities of men who practically disregard] in great measure, if not wholly, such [individual] concerns, or [intimations of duty, they are turned aside from the course that would otherwise have been marked out for them by the great Head of the Church, & the result is often, either total failure or diminished usefulness; & still more frequently, interminable cares & perplexities] to the parties themselves. I fear it is so in the present instance;

instance; & I feel much for J. C. S. Handt, whom I believe to be a pious, sincere-hearted man, with much uprightness of character; but having been brought up to no regular occupation, in addition to an imperfect acquaintance with the English tongue (being of German extraction) constitute in him more than ordinary disqualifications, should no appointment present in the line of Missionary labour, & he should have to support his family in any other way.

[Besides, in judging of the fitness of such an appointment,] should it be offered him, [of its accordance with the Divine Will, how liable is the mind to be biassed by considerations of a secondary nature, when a man has no other probable means of subsistence, & has a wife & three children to maintain! How happy are we, as a religious Body, in being exempt from such trammels, in having taken the example of the Apostles & early believers as our Model, & the unerring Spirit, the voice of the true Shepherd, & Bishop of souls, as our Guide.] May we ever prize our privileges, & be favoured to live & act in a manner becoming them!

I have been much affected in hearing of the decease of our dearly valued friend Thomas Richardson. He was one for whom I always entertained a very particular esteem & affection; & his ministrations were usually attended with

life & power to my soul. In dwelling on the worth of our departed friend, my mind has been sweetly & renewedly impressed with the infinite value of a life spent in the fear & love of God; accompanied with fervent desires that I may with increased diligence & faithfulness become the follower of one who through faith & patience, I have no manner of doubt, has become an inheritor of the promises, in the fruition of endless enjoyment. May I ask of thee to convey to dear Elizth Richardson & her family, the expression of my love, & sincere sympathy with them under their painful bereavement.

I feel much obliged for thy many interesting informations, & not less so for thy kind caution not to act hastily in the important matter pending. I hope thy fears by this time may have become somewhat allayed. I exceedingly dread precipitancy in matters of moment, & am far from thinking myself infallible, or invulnerable to the temptation of an unwaried adversary, who is ever seeking to ensnare.

On the contrary, I have had too many proofs in time past of my own liability to err, not to value the admonitions of my friends where they may deem them needful. I trust, however, that hitherto I am not justly chargeable with having acted prematurely or unadvisedly; though some from thy comments, I am to suppose, condemn me. I must
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beg leave, however, of my dear friend, utterly to disclaim the admission that it is a natural conclusion that Sarah Benson Mather's "supposed attachment" (as it has been termed) to Friends' principles may have been closely connected with her regard for me." This, thou sayest, is a view taken, and thou fearest it may be a trying one to me. Now I cannot refrain from observing, that for S. B. Mather to have acted, with her professions, from such considerations, would not merely have involved, but I might almost say madneps! What could we deem it but the height of folly for a person under her circumstances, at a time when her whole family were likely to have opposed & thwarted her views, to acknowledge herself convinced of Friends' principles, having but once seen one (at the first period of our visit) & even after a second interview, with the probability of our never meeting again, to act upon those convictions, attend our Meetings, (when certainly we saw one another again) & ultimately apply to be received into membership;— & all this time not the most distant intimation, or even thought, on my part, of affectionate feeling towards her— in the prospect indeed of speedy departure from the Colony, not then supposing that I should ever visit it again: What must we think of a person who could act the part she did, on the bare

possibility, that by a concatenation of remarkable coincidences we should subsequently be thrown much into one another's company, contrary to my or her concerting, indeed in some degree in opposition to my own wishes, & that, eventually, my return of regard would be the result! I must suppose that S. B. Mather has indeed acted a sinful, & a most extravagantly foolish part. No! Had those whose judgment ought to be respected, & who were on the spot, entertained such unworthy sentiments respecting her, & had the series of subsequent events been different & corroborative that they were right in their estimate of S. B. Mather's duplicity: I should then indeed have thought the view they had taken a trying one. Because in such case I presume it would have been deserved. But, if after all that has transpired, — if after the evident blessing from on high that has accrued to herself, and, in great measure, through her faithfulness to conviction, to the rest of the family, in the marked increase of piety & spiritual mindedness among them; added to her own dedication & consistent course, which would put many a young woman of her age, at home, members of our Society, ~~to the blush~~, & whose advantages have been greatly superior to hers to the blush; — if when apprised of these circumstances any are so uncharitable as to question her sincerity, I do not
regard.

regard it in any very important light, because I think it greatly impugns their judgment. And if any take upon them to condemn an ingenuous, conscientious mind, not having acquainted themselves with the facts, & to stamp S.B. Mather as insincere, or deceiving herself, because her profession of Friends' principles & affection for a member of the Society happen now to be coincident, I attach still less importance to such a view, because to me it betrays a want not merely of charity & common fairness, but an absolute want of principle: they ought at least to have suspended their decision until they were thoroughly informed of the facts. Common justice demands this.

Our gracious Redeemer who knows the human heart, for "he knew what was in man," does not enjoin that we should extinguish those affections which are common to our nature, as the love of father, or mother, or husband, or wife &c. He requires that they should be held in subordination to his will. It is, "whosoever loveth father or mother, husband or wife, more than him," who are "unworthy of him." Yet some would seem to infer that the existence of a virtuous affection & devoted piety was incompatible in the breast of a female! With regard to myself if my friendship for S.B. Mather induce me to swerve from the path of religious duty,

then my friends will have just reason to be dissatisfied.
But I have a comfortable persuasion that the Lord by his
Almighty power will preserve me from this snare. I know
it is one to which I am liable: but I look to him for preser-
vation. I am conscious that I am utterly unable to keep
myself, therefore I will put my confidence in Him, not in
myself; & there is a sweet promise, that "they who trust in
him shall not be confounded." I receive the admonition of
my friends, not to do any thing hastily, in the love, I trust,
in which it was offered. I shall strive to act upon the moni-
tion, which I hope I may say with truth, I have hitherto en-
deavoured to do: and I wish to be far from undervaluing the
judgment of any - nay, I would wish to please all. At the
same time it is our blessed Redeemer's command to "judge
not according to the appearance (that is, superficially) but to
"judge righteous judgment -" in the authority of his unerring
Spirit. And if any take upon them to condemn me or my
friend on slighter grounds, to such I would say, "It is but
a small matter to be judged of man's judgment," (if it be not
righteous judgment.) "He that judgeth me is the Lord."
I have also the consolation of knowing that the hasty judg-
ment of those unacquainted with S. B. Mather's ^{real} character,
does not render her really otherwise than what she is, not
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one jot less deserving of my regard.

I could thoroughly subscribe to my dear friend R.P.'s remark, that "it is simplicity, not any particular thing" in regard to dress that Friends profess, "I ought to aim at;" but the general gaiety of dress, especially female attire, that prevails in these Colonies, is either not known, or is not sufficiently taken into account. Even the Wesleyans who are generally simple in their costume in England, find it a prevalent cause of evil among their members here, - the love of dress.

I knew it was difficult to any but cloth shawls, without the appendage of flaming borders; I undertook therefore to procure a few from England - not exclusively for our own members. Had I even conjectured the unaccountable scrupulosity of my friends on such a score, I should have applied in a different quarter. It is now too late; I though a little disappointment to a few will be the result, it is a matter of very trivial moment in that respect. But I do not view it as altogether unimportant in another point of view: for, though I am no advocate for studied peculiarity of dress, but would always rather avoid it, yet this particular article of female attire had the recommendation of simplicity, general utility, & adaptation to the climate, recommendations which when applicable to the female garb, almost necessarily include deviation from general

attire. Now this consequence, though merely an incidental one, works well; like all effects of sound principles carried out into practice; — it has been found to be a protection to the virtuous female: it is so even in our own country. But in these Colonies where female character is generally so very low, the distinctive peculiarity which modest attire presents, is a real defence against insult. And it must seem somewhat extraordinary, especially to those who are not Friends, for whom some of the shawls were designed, should I find it necessary to inform them that Friends in England hesitated to send those written for on the ground that they could see no propriety in promoting their use — which in such case means, that they saw impropriety in it (which I think ^{it} would be difficult to prove;) or, if they did not, it was not acting with that courtesy which they have usually observed towards an absent friend, so to treat his request. I cannot suppose it was inferred I meant my friends to be at the expense of the shawls; I have not been in the habit of taking such a liberty with them!

Thy dear Mother observes also, that it seemed unnecessary to transport clothing thousands of miles to promote conformity in dress. I concur with her entirely in deeming it unnecessary to consult conformity; but it seems to have escaped her recollection, from the general tenour of her remarks on this subject, that

that all clothing worn in this country is transported from Great Britain; - unless it be in a few instances in regard to shoes, coarse hats, & some coarser woollen garments made expressly for the Convicts.

Some time ago I wrote to our valued friend, Esther Stickney, respecting her poor brother Richard. I have since learned, that the accident which unhappily deprived him of life, occurred on the 19th of 10th Mo: 1834; according to the Affidavit of an acquaintance to this effect. J. Backhouse has obtained R. S.'s watch, with some other trifling articles, which will be forwarded the earliest convenient opportunity. May I request thee to convey this information in substance to dear Esther, with my love.

Sydney. 9th Mo: 1836. It is with some reluctance, my dear friend that I begin another sheet, having fully anticipated making one suffice, though there were several subjects broached in thy last letter to me that required comment: one or two however yet remain untouched upon, which I should not like to pass by unnoticed; though I fear I run the risk of wearying a valued correspondent with my prolixity. It need not be read, however, all at once, & I hope thou wilt excuse me if I try thy patience by this second sheet.

On the 7th inst. my Companion & I took tea with W. P. Crook & family, among whom were J. C. L. Flanck & his wife, for whom

we entertain an esteem, & whom I have already alluded to. W. P. Crook was so kind as to read to us a letter he had recently received from Huahine, one of the Society Islands, from a Missionary named Charles Barff, dated "January 19th 1836." I give the following very satisfactory extract: it is the last information we have received of the movements of our beloved friends D. & C. Wheeler. Charles Barff says: I mentioned in my last, that I accompanied Mr. D. Wheeler & his Son to Polo Polo [called on the charts Bolo Bolo] as interpreter. The natives listened with profound to their pious, pointed, & scriptural addresses. They left Polo Polo on the 13th Nov^r for the Sandwich Islands, intending to return by the Harvey Islands." I hope we shall shortly receive direct information from these dear friends. Satisfaction has been expressed by several Missionaries who have been resident among the Islands, but have returned from the scene of their former labours, that a person of D. Wheeler's character, unbiassed by undue prepossessions, it is hoped, either one way or the other, should have undertaken to visit those parts, & thereby be enabled to report the real state of things. — I notice, my dear friend, in a recent letter, thy expression of regret that thou couldst discover so little of Christianity in D. Wheeler's manner of parting with Cuthbert Wigham. Now I know Cuth-

Cuthbert Wigham, & have been accustomed to esteem him; but it is not every good man that is adapted for such a service as that he once contemplated. That he should think it his duty to offer himself as D. Wheeler's Companion, & that his friends should not disapprove of the arrangement, are still not a proof to my mind that he was the person whom the Master called to this service. We know not what good ends were to be answered through the Divine economy of means, by his mind being brought to that point of submission in which he had to feel he was leaving all for Christ's sake; nor is it known to us what further design might be answered by the strait into which Danl. Wheeler's mind was brought on the one hand, in conceiving it his place to object to his Companion (for we cannot but suppose it was a painful duty - I know it was;) nor by the humiliation (if such it was) of C. Wigham's mind, in being made the subject of such a scruple, on the other. But setting these considerations aside, & placing myself in C. Wigham's situation, - & I think I ought to be able to enter into his feelings, considering that the position I at present occupy is precisely similar; - except, certainly, what with most would be considered, my greatly inferior qualifications, which might not place me on an equality with C. Wigham; - yet placing

myself as nearly as I can conceive in C. Wigham's situation, if my Companion in the light of Truth was to feel uneasy with me, from whatever cause, though he could not even assign any other, than that this uneasiness existed, with a secret persuasion that I was not the person with whom he should unite in labour; — so far from thinking he acted an unchristian part in acquainting me with his sentiments, I should think he did me as well as himself a very great injustice if he withheld them from me; and that he sacrificed the sacred interests of the Gospel to mistaken & most fallacious views of Benevolence. In a matter of such vast moment we ought to "know no man after the flesh;" & in acting according to the contrary principle, both parties would have been liable to be plunged into inextricable difficulties & trials, that would have been a fatal set-off against the puny deference to personal feeling that such a course would have displayed — a course of conduct, in my estimation, unmanly & unbecoming the Christian character. With these views, my dear friend, forgive me if I express my dissent from thee when thou pronouncest D. Wheeler's conduct in the case referred to as unchristian. It appears to me, he was bound to act as he did: to have acted otherwise would have been departing from the principles of the Gospel.

Gospel.

My dear friend does not understand my remark, that "the Light which enlighteneth every man that cometh into the world" is the formal object of the faith of true believers in all ages." I will explain:

That by which we come to the knowledge of Christ and of God, which is the Holy Spirit; the Light of Christ; the Grace of God which brings salvation; the Spirit of truth leading into all truth; which takes of the things of Christ & shews them unto us, - and by which the Father draws us unto the Son; That by which we are to be saved, thro' faith in it, - according to the Apostle Paul; "by Grace ye are saved through faith, & that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; this unspeakable gift, given to us through Christ's mediation, & for his sake, is, ever was, & ever will be through: out time (according to my view) the formal object of the faith of believers, as may be gathered from the Scriptures which abundantly testify to its reality; though to my astonishment I perceive, that the author of the Beacon speaks of this inward light as "the delusive notion of the inward light." As my faith, I feel, is built on this doctrine, having I reverently believe, come to the knowledge of Jesus as my Saviour (in the degree to which I may have attained, however short

of its fullness) through the illuminating influence of this Light, which I believe to be no other than the revelation of the Holy Spirit, I shrink not from avowing my faith in it. But for this medium I could not know that the blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth from all sin, or that he is the propitiation for my sins; for Christ is hereby revealed to me as the Power of God & the Wisdom of God, through the faith of the operation of God. Had I the knowledge of Christ by mere tradition, or from the knowledge of Scripture, my mind being unenlightened by his Spirit, what would it avail me? That therefore which draws unto Christ—"no man cometh unto me except the Father which hath sent me draw him"—is the formal object of my faith, because thro' this "Unspeakable Gift," I must attain the Substance, with which indeed it is identified; for, "the Father, the Spirit, & the Word are one." But, if I am enlightened by this heavenly Light, I can no more deny the divine authority of the Sacred Scriptures, or that Jesus Christ is "the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world," as the Hicksites have done, then I could deny the light of the sun while walking in the blaze of day. It is only as I walk in this heavenly Light, that I can know the blood of Jesus to cleanse from all sin, or that I can have fellowship with true-believers.

And

And because some have perverted this doctrine, I see no reason to disclaim the use of the term "Light," seeing that the Apostles & prophets make use of it so frequently in the Scriptures; & the Apostle Paul tells us that "God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness hath shined into our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ;" & the excellency of the power being of God, my faith is in it as his "unspeakable Gift", the price of our dear Redeemer's death & sufferings, "who ascended up on high, who led captivity captive, & gave gifts unto men, unto the rebellious also, that the Lord God might dwell amongst them."

10th On Seventh day last J. Backhouse & myself paid a visit to W^m. Henry & Emma Freeman, who are connected with Friends in England. Emma Freeman's name was Gorham, I think from Sussex: they are interesting persons, & are to be felt for, having just lost a little boy, after a tedious illness, whose remains they would have gladly had interred in a Burial Ground belonging to Friends, had there been one in this place. They are about to settle near Port Macquarie, along with a brother of E. F. (named Gorham) who also intends becoming a Settler.

The interment of William Shobridge's remains took

place in the Burial Ground at Hobart Town, which he had given to Friends but a short time before his decease. Many of his children being there, & their Wesleyan friends, the interment was conducted more after the views of the latter, than of Friends; who had little to do in the matter but to bear their silent testimony to simplicity, & unostentatious deportment on such occasions. After the Wesleyans had gone through their devotional exercises at the graveside, H. H. Ridler made a brief citation from Scripture; this was all the active service that was engaged in by Friends, several of whom were present.

The persons professing with us in Hobart Town suffer much for want of a place to meet in which they can call their own. I cannot describe to thee, in few words, the many annoyances consequent on assembling in the houses of individuals in humble circumstances, & where the neighbourhood is not always of the best description. These things however may have a good effect, in their humiliation; & may tend to prove their faith, sincerity, & constancy in enduring the cross, & the contempt of the great, & worldly wise, for their love to the Truth. — S. R. has engaged herself as assistant to the wife M. L. Smith, who has opened a respectable boarding School for girls, on Norfolk Plains, by which she is quite
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out of the sphere of intercourse with Friends, personally; yet I hope all may be over-ruled for good. If her convictions be genuine, which I have no reason to doubt, she may not make the less rapid advance in the Christian course for being weaned from dependence on man, & what are often designated "means; however valuable some of these may be in their place, especially the attendance of our religious Meetings. - H. & A. Proposing, two valuable young persons who have long attended our Meetings, have lately applied for admission into membership. I hope they will prove an accession to our little body in V. D. L. should they be admitted. There does not appear to be much prospect of conviction here, but we know not what the future may bring forth. Abm. Dany has just arrived here from Launceston. The Governor, Col. Arthur, has assigned him to J. Backhouse, as a reward for A. D.'s conduct as a Prisoner: he will now be under more favourable circumstances, in Sydney, & I trust will be a help to us: he is a valuable young man, if he only continue faithful.

It is very pleasant to hear of thy dear Mother's favourable state of health, considering her years. It is now nearly five years since we parted; perhaps we may live to see each other again, but I hardly dare to indulge in fixing

a time, even in idea, everything is so very uncertain. Yet it looks a little like drawing towards the close of our service in these Colonies. Give my dear love to her, to thy valued husband & children, & other members of the family, & to my friends generally. With sincere regard, I subscribe myself,

thy affectionate friend

George W. Walker.

P.S. I have picked up a few things that I shall endeavour to forward to you, when I can find time and opportunity, which I hope will be soon. G.W.W.
