

1. To Robt. Andrew Mather, Sydney N. S. W.

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Cape Town, S. Africa, 24/8 Mo. 1838.

My dear friend,  
Robt. A. Mather.

By accounts from time to time rec<sup>d</sup>? from thy dear Sister, Jas. Backhouse & myself have heard a few particulars respecting thy & A. Davy's movements, in wh<sup>ch</sup> we continue to feel very deeply interested: and that on two-fold grounds. For, not only is your own present & eternal well-being most intimately & inseparably connected with your individual walk as becometh the gospel; but the blessed Cause with which you are in measure identified, in Sydney at least, & which is in such degree committed, as it were, with you, may prosper or wane with your faithfulness, & the steady, consistent conduct, or otherwise, of such as may be associated with you in religious profession. O that your lights may so shine before men, that others seeing your good works, may glorify your Father wh<sup>o</sup> is in heaven.

Thou in particular, hast often been on my mind of late. I can feel for thee in thy present comparatively lone situation, separated from thy near connexions, and with few, very few probably, to whom thou canst look for counsel or help outwardly. But my dear friend, if the Lord be thy helper, what indeed, or whom, needst thou fear? And surely he does condescend to be the helper & guide of such as place their confidence in him, & are determined in the strength wh<sup>ch</sup> he alone can impart, to follow him implicitly in his leadings - to surrender themselves fully - as it were, a whole-burnt sacrifice. - I wish to tell thee that it has afforded me much

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satisfaction to hear of thy having settled down to a steady pursuit, though it may not, to the eye of man present any very flattering prospects as to the things of this world. But the Lord knoweth what is best for us, and he had the power of making way for thy occupation of a post more lucrative had he deemed it best for thee. And let me remind thee that from the nature of thy former engagements ~~we~~ were in some degree desultory; & latterly, in a more especial manner, irregular & varying, — thy steady application to an active employment such as that in ~~we~~ now thou art embarked, may be of incalculable service to thee in enabling thee to acquire habits of business & despatch that may be essential to thy future success in endeavouring to provide things honest in the sight of all men, but ~~as~~ from previous training hitherto, it cannot be supposed have been fully gained. And however trying it may be to thy feelings, that the practicability of settling in life may thus seem to be placed at a distance; believe that in this the Lord's time is the best time. I can here sympathise with thee, <sup>having</sup> from ~~from~~ had myself to endure close trials on this head, not only in protracted separation from those I love; but even since my arrival here I have learned that an Uncle who had the whole of my little property in his hands, a very trifle excepted, has become a confirmed defaulter. I am not likely ever to realize a penny of what is due to me! But, my dear Robert, we know, both of us, that the Lord hath promised to provide for our needful wants if we seek first the Kingdom & righteousness ~~we~~ are his. Let us, therefore, cast our care upon him, knowing that he careth for us; that he never did, nor ever will, forsake those who put their trust in him; diligently seeking, at the same time, to fulfil his righteous will. And when

the right time arrives for such an important step as that of settling in life, to wh<sup>ch</sup> I have alluded, I have not the shadow of a doubt he will make the way easy; provided we don't meanwhile take ourselves out of his holy hands, nor seek great things for ourselves. — I have not heard what may be thy prospects or intentions connected with this very weighty matter, to wh<sup>ch</sup> however, I have reason to suppose from what I have long known thou art looking prospectively. But let me affectionately, yet earnestly caution thee against being precipitate.

Thy present situation will be a somewhat new one to thee. Thou wilt see much more of the bustle of active life, & will be brought more into collision with the world & its spirit than at any former period probably of thy life. Thou wilt also come into immediate contact with those who may be of very different tempers, tastes, & principles to thyself, wh<sup>ch</sup> must call into frequent requisition the practical maxim of "bear & forbear." But the Grace of God is sufficient for all these things; — though nothing short of it, be assured, my dear Robert, is. Seek it then, daily, & hourly. Cultivate a spirit of prayer, & of dependance momentarily on the great & availing Helper of his people. The more thou feel'st thy own weakness, or even sinfulness (for the struggle is often long, & arduous between the powers of light & of darkness that are at war in us, before complete victory is wrought in the creature,) the more need thou hast to cast thyself unreservedly on thy Saviour. Repair to the Fountain of his blood, (where thou may'st wash & be clean,) as often as thou feel'st the taint of sin upon thy conscience; & when he is pleased to say in effect, "Now are ye clean through the word that

that I have spoken unto you," let it encourage thee to renewed dedication of heart, & watchfulness before the Lord, hating the first appearances of evil. Thus thou wilt find that though, "not by works of righteousness that we have done, but by his mercy he saveth us, by the washings of regeneration & the renewings of the Holy Ghost, yet as the work goes forward the former will more abound; & peace will proportionally attend; while the language of thy heart will be, when for the trial of thy faith the sense of consolation is withdrawn; Lord, thou wilt ordain peace for us, for thou also hast wrought all our works in us; & not only in seasons of weakness as well as strength, but of poverty as well as riches, spiritually, thou wilt know the Lord to be thy all in all."

We spent an hour or two last evening with W<sup>m</sup> Skinner, a Member of our Society, (as he reports himself) who is a passenger in the Eden, for Sydney, where he proposes entering into business with a brother who is either gone thither, or is on his way. I hope they may prove an accession of strength to the little company who profess with Friends. But however this may be, follow no man implicitly. Let the good Shepherd of Israel be thy guide, & no man, any further than he may follow Christ.

My dear Companion & myself are preparing for a long journey into the interior, purposing to visit some, if not all of the Missionary Institutions in the country. We see our way at present clear to Graham's Town by the coast line of road. It may be 2 or 3 weeks before we start. If spared to proceed we travel in a Waggon w<sup>h</sup> is nearly built for us, drawn by oxen. — I think it probable that thy dear Sister has given thee some particulars of our recent visits to the Sett<sup>ls</sup> of

Port Philip, So. Australia, King George's Sound, & Swan River;  
& to the I<sup>le</sup> of Mauritius. We reached this place on the 27/6 Mo.  
1838, & are now lodging with some pious persons named Thwaites,  
where we are made very comfortable by our worthy landlady.

There is a great work going on in Africa, w<sup>h</sup> far outstrips  
both Australia & N. I<sup>land</sup> in its labours of love for the  
amelioration of our race through the extension of the Re-  
deemer's Kingdom. Of the Missionary Institutions we shall  
be able to say more after having visited them. Among the  
most prominent means of usefulness next to these, is the  
general estab<sup>t</sup>. of Infant Schools, of which admirable insti-  
tutions there is one at each of the Missionary Stations belong<sup>g</sup>  
the Lond: Miss: V Society, besides several in Cape Town. These,  
of themselves, are mighty agents of good. There is also a So.  
African Christian Instruction Society, besides other subordinate  
associations for the promotion of Temperance (not the least  
important in the machinery of moral means now in operation)  
distribution of tracts, &c. &c. — We are just getting a new edition  
of the Tract addressed to Prisoners from the Press; it is re-mo-  
delled so as to be applicable to mankind, generally. We shall  
send a few copies to A. Davy in a parcel we are forwarding by  
W. Skinner; & mean to put in a copy of Beverley's Letters, in  
w<sup>h</sup> those professing with Friends may see that some of their  
noble testimonies to the Truth as in Jesus, are beginning to be  
upheld by persons without the pale of the Society that were  
once exclusively upheld by Friends. It is thus that by faith-  
fully keeping their places in the militant Church, & not in  
any way compromising their principles the world will be brot<sup>t</sup>  
over, through the blessing of God, & become the Kingdoms of our  
God, & of his Christ.

My dear

My dear Companion means to suggest your application to  
V. D. Land Yearly Meeting for permission to constitute yourselves  
a M<sup>c</sup>. Meeting, in his letter to A. Davy. I hope it will have  
your joint & serious consideration, as before the Lord. I trust  
the way is now clear for the organization of a Meeting for  
Discipline that may be helpful to you in every way, in both  
inciting to faithfulness, & in dealing with such as are unfaith-  
ful. — I am glad thou hast made acquaintance with John &  
Ely<sup>th</sup>. Saunders. I have a great love & esteem for them, believ<sup>g</sup>.  
they are concerned to walk, & labour, according to the light rec<sup>d</sup>.  
from their great & good Master, to his glory, & the good of souls.  
Give my love to them: also to T. & A. Brown, G. Bennett, the  
family of Parkers, & such others of our friends as thou mayst  
know we are interested about. Give my love to M. M. Birnie,  
& to our worthy friend S. Marsden, if thou hast opportunity —  
not exclusive of the families of each. Also present my Re-  
membr<sup>ce</sup>. to M<sup>r</sup>. Bourne, & his son whom we saw in Hobart  
Town, E. Merritt & family, particularly F. & C. Mitchell, &c.  
Tell M<sup>r</sup>. Parker, with my love, that his son Geo. F. Parker  
& family are in usual health, & doing well, I sh<sup>d</sup>. think in  
every sense. I believe G. F. P. to be a very worthy, devoted Wesleyan.  
Perhaps J. Williams, the Miss<sup>ys</sup>. to the S. Sea Isl<sup>ds</sup>, may be  
in Sydney when this reaches thee; if so we sh<sup>d</sup>. be glad to  
be remembered to him & his colleagues on b<sup>d</sup>. the 'Camden', in  
whose welfare we continue to feel a lively interest. We became  
acquainted with them during their short stay at the Cape.  
Farewell, dear Robert! Mayst thou be preserved from the  
evil of this fleeting world, living near unto God, & knowing  
him to be thy Judge, & Saviour, & King, & finally, thy Salvation  
thru' Christ Jesus our Lord. Mayst thou be blessed, & made

a blessing to others, is the prayer of,

thy affectionate friend

Geo. W. Walker.

W.B.

My love to A Davy, even tho' the commission be repeated in A D's letter. We have just heard of the safe arrival of our dear friends D. H. Wheeler in London, by a letter from the latter, who has borne the voyage better than might have been expected. D. Wheeler himself, has greatly improved in health since his arrival in his native land: they reached it on the 1/5 Mo. /38. I shall be glad to hear from thee when thou inclinest to write.

For at least 8 mos. to come our address will be to the Post Office, Cape Town. J.B. desires his love to thee.

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per post. 2  
Eden's Mail. }