

To Rachel Priestman. Newcastle

Cape Town, S. Africa 28/8 Mo. 1838.

My dear friend
Rachel Priestman.

Should recent sheets of the Journal have reached their destination, my dear friends at S. Hill will have been apprised of the arrival of my dear Companion & myself at this place. I now have to acknowledge the receipt of four kind letters from thee from 12 Mo. 1836 to 2 Mo. 1838 inclusive. It w^d. not be easy to describe the gratification it afforded me to hear of my beloved friends after having been cut off from direct communⁿ. with them for a period of nearly 18 mo^s. A glance at each letter, as I broke the seals to ascertain the order of dates pleasingly allayed my fears, first, in affording me a sight of the well known hand writing of some of my dearest correspondents, (thy beloved parents among the number) & secondly, in noticing a brief paragraph in the last mentioned communⁿ. alluding to the more than ordinarily favourable state of her health. I seemed at once to be so far relieved from painful apprehension, that with a heart melted under a sense of God's goodness to an unworthy creature, I was enabled to proceed in the perusal of the deeply interesting details with comparative composure.

The interval since I had last had the pleasure of hearing from thee, my endeared friend, was an eventful one. Whilst we have had our conflicts & trials, you, also, have had yours, in an unusual degree. The departure of those long held dear, not only by the ties of nature but by the closer cement of religious fellowship, from the Society,

must have been a bitter dispensation. In addition to which, the very foundations of our religious faith have been called in question. But renewed examⁿ. of, & recurrence to first principles, if set about in uprightness & humility of heart, is not likely to weaken, but establish us the more in the Truth.

The frequent siftings of opposers, & repeated appeals to Scripture as the test of our religious belief, & soundness as a body, have only confirmed my dear Compⁿ. & myself in the rectitude of Friends' doctrines; at the same time that repeated demonstrations of their practical efficacy, & of their applicability to the various & changing circumstances of life, witnessed during a long period of absence, & over an extended field of observation, have assured us of their thorough adaptation to the wants & condition of our fallen race. And it is truly consoling to my mind to believe that though a few have been turned aside from the truth, — respecting whom we cannot but mourn, — the dear friends with whom I am once more in direct communⁿ., have been enabled in the moment of trial, when the query might seem to have been virtually put, 'Will ye also go away?' in the sincerity & uprightness of their hearts (dictated by unfeigned love to the unchangeable Truth,) to respond — 'To whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life. Surely, my dear friend, in such proportion as we have been faithful, practically, to our principles we can all say, 'We know that we have not followed cunningly devised fables' — let others think & say what they will.

I have thought a good deal about my friend RP's comments relative to even the moderate, occasional use of wine, & have concluded, as she will perceive by the remarks in the journal, to abandon it altogether. I have to thank her for bringing the subject so closely before me; for I really did not see in quite.

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so striking & important a light as I now do, that it is desirable to be able to say that we neither touch, taste nor handle a thing which whilst not usually needful for health, is so powerful an engine ^{of evil} in the hands of the unwearied enemy of man.

J.B. & I are now both acting upon the principle of total abstinence; & altho' it does not require us to make any very material change from previous practice as regards ourselves, it certainly gives us a materially augmented influence over others in discouraging generally the use of stimulating drinks.

The expressions used in a former letter of which my friend queries the rectitude, I would just remind her should be taken with the context; & then I have no fear of my views being misapprehended; which might easily be the result if deduced from any mere isolated passage. I never for a moment intended to limit the effects of Christ's death to any single gift or blessing. Everything we hold or hope for is attributable to it. Yet as the great medium, or agent, by which the gifts wh^{ch} he has purchased for us with his own blood, (the pardon of sin pre-eminently among the number,) are rendered available to us, I spoke of the precious gift of the Holy Spirit as "that, [meaning pre-eminently,] which our blessed Redeemer laid down his life to secure for us: in the same way as, I apprehend, the Apostle Paul breaks out into the exclamation; "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift!" - as tho' it involved every other. It surely is not to be dissociated from any; - & without its operation all would be unavailing - so has the Lord ordered it. The Holy Spirit illuminates our minds, convinces us of sin, draws us to the Son, - to Christ; - teaches us all things, & brings them to our remembrance, enables us to address God as "Father," & it is only such as are led thereby who are the children

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dren of God. Hence the view I wished to convey, - that this obedience to the teaching & guidance of the Spirit is essential to salvation; & a man would be saved thereby, though he never knew to whom he was indebted for this inestimable gift: though his ignorance, (at the same time,) would not alter the fact that Christ's death was the price of this & of every other blessing; nor, therefore, would he be saved irrespective of Christ's death, were he to yield subjection to the Holy Spirit not having the knowledge of the historical facts recorded in the Scriptures.

It is possible to be benefited by one of whom we may not have heard even the name, & this would be the case in the instance I have supposed. Those who deny the merits of the Redeemer's death, having the Scriptures in their hands; or who profess to disbelieve in Him as the Offering made once for all on account of our sins, - the ignorance & folly of these assumes a very different character: the foundation of their hopes appears to me to be built on the sand.

Whilst I think of it I wish to correct a misapprehension as expressed in a former letter, I think from my dear friend Margt Bragg, respecting sums that were handed me when leaving England ^{expressly} for my own private use, (I have notes from the parties who handed me the money to that effect:) the money was not given to apply to charitable purposes, as is supposed, though of course I was not prohibited from so applying it if I chose, & as I apprehend, I did apply it in lending it to one who was in need, though expecting to have it shortly returned. I know of only one small sum that was given me for the purposes of charity, which was to be bestowed on some poor Flottentot, and when I meet with a suitable case of distress among that class I hope to fulfil my trust. I feel that this explanation is due

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lest I should be considered liberal with what was not my own.

In regard to the sum in my Uncle Macleod's hands: on a former occasion the matter was brought home to me, either to throw him into jail, or be content to lose it, - for this I expected might be the alternative. I could not do the former; & am not disappointed in finding that the latter will be the result, because I have long expected it. I feel greatly obliged to my friends for their care on this head, though I had no idea that any thing short of extreme measures would be awaiting. I feel sorry for my poor Aunt & Cousins, & indeed, for my Uncle too, for I believe he is now poor; & they, I am ready to think, will be greater sufferers than I shall. For [I thank my God, he has taught me, I trust, to be content with a little, & he has taught those also who are likely to be connected with me, to be content with a little; & I have a humble trust that the little that is absolutely needful will not be withheld - that I shall be strengthened to earn it in the right time & way, and under such circumstances as not to debar me from any service the Lord may call for at my hands.] If my heart does not deceive me this is all I at present desire, & I hope will continue to be, so far at any rate as to exclude anxiety. If it be so with me, it is the Lord's discipline that has brought me to it, & he is indeed worthy to be praised. - [I have great occasion to put my whole trust in the Lord; & of late, blessed be his Name, my ability to trust him for time & for eternity has been increased, so that ^{at} times all fear as to the future has been suppressed. He has been with my dear Companion & myself during now nearly 7 years, in a very special manner, whilst seeking to serve him in the line of allotted duty; & though in my own case his multiplied mercies have been too often requited with ingratitude,

& unbelief, the faithfulness of my covenant-keeping God has been so proved to me that as I write, & often of late, I have thought, & hoped I sh^d never distrust him again. O he is worthy to be trusted, feared, & adored - yea, & loved.!

[We are now entering upon a new & wide field of labour. It is in all probability the last stage of our travels together on this extended engagement.] Should we not even live to accomplish it, it is a great mercy that we have got thus far with no worse slips or mishaps than we have respectively to bear record of against ourselves. Be assured [we have had our trials, our temptations, our buffetings. But my faith is strong that the grace of God is sufficient, & will carry us thro' to the praise of his own name] - in so far as that the salvation of our own souls will be wrought out whilst seeking however feebly, to help others; & if any good be effected, or has been effected, thro' the instrumentality of either, to the Lord alone may the praise of his own works be ascribed. — [The labourers are many in this part of the world compared with those we have recently visited, especially as regards Missionary efforts. The Schools are also numerous; a very desirable auxiliary means of doing good, more particularly ^{when we} consider the character of the major part of the population, just emerging from Slavery, or from Heathenism, or both.] But what do I say. I fear I must recal my remark, for, strange to say, in Cape Town itself, many of the Coloured people are adopting the Mahomedan profession. This would not have been a complaint had Ems (so called) fulfilled their duty tow^d these poor people. But while Ems held them in bondage, often treated them cruelly, generally with indignity, as an inferior race, & even where they adopted the Ems faith assigned them distinct places in their buildings for public worship, & in their burial grounds, how _{could}

could it be supposed that the *Dⁿ* religion would be recom-
mended to them in any thing like its genuine boldness by
its professors. When coloured people profess to be believers of
the false Prophet they are treated as fellow-creatures & as brethren
by the Priests, & their fellow professors; who in this particular
exhibit more of the spirit of *Dⁿ*, than *D^{ns}*, until lately, have
done. To this shameful inconsistency, almost universal, we are
told, amongst the Dutch inhab^{ts} may be traced the real cause
of the spread of Mahommedanism.

There is a very useful institution here called the 'South Afri-
can *Dⁿ* Instruction Society' composed of persons of different
denom^{ns} united to promote by Schools chiefly, & other means,
the Redeemer's Kingdom. We have the use of their School Room
twice on First-days to meet in; for wh^{ch} tho' we have the offer of it
gratuitously we shall think it right to make the Institution
some return. But I have also thought the objects of this Society,
especially in connection with its schools, (both Infant & other
schools,) were so excellent, & such as Friends could so thoroughly
approve, that the sum raised by the liberality of a few to con-
tribute tow^d the emancipⁿ of the Slaves thro' the medium of
'the African Philanthropic Society,' might, if the contributors
approved, be transferred to this Institution; wh^{ch} has for its object
the yet higher aim of emancipating their minds from the
shades of ignorance & error that yet envelope the larger portion
of the coloured race. I have not heard how the money is dis-
posed of, but I presume it remains in the Savings Bank,
where it was originally deposited some years ago. Probably
against the period of our return from the interior, sh^d we live,
we may be apprised of the way in wh^{ch} it is to be appropriated.
Indeed it occurs to me, if I am not mistaken, that it is placed

in some way under our friend W^m Manley's care.

The receipt of a kind, informing letter from my valued friend Mr. Richardson, a few days ago, was additionally grateful in bearing a good account of you all. Thy dear Mother's excursion to the Y^g. M^t. will by this time be over, & I hope she is returned in peace to her own home. Do give my dear love to her, & to thy valued husband & family, & your immediate connections whom you know are endeared to my remembrance. [The time seems to be a little nearer than it once looked for seeing my dear friends once again face to face - such of us as may be spared to meet again. Should this be our lot to me it would indeed be pleasant. But we are short-sighted creatures, & know not what a day may bring forth. And we have a long journey before us - many difficulties - perhaps some dangers; & the inscrip-^{tion} ^{that} attaches to all terrene objects & pursuits, awaits even ours, tho' the higher interests of another world may be blended with our movements, - that they are mutable & uncertain. as regards man, though known to Him who seeth the end from the beginning.] If accordant with his will, to return to our native land would doubtless be pleasing to us both. - We are preparing to start in about 3 weeks, if w^e can be ready so early - meaning to travel in a Wagon, drawn by oxen, & expecting to make it our house & home for many months, as well as our ship through the deserts of the interior.

I shall endeavour to write again to some of my correspond^{ts} in N. C. before I start. We are comforted in the accounts rec^d. of dear S. Buckhouse, & of her precious Mother, though the health of the latter is materially declined since her Son's departure from England: his children also afford grounds for pleasing report w^{ch} is a great cause of thankfulness. With

With love to all my beloved friends, & an undiminished
portion for thyself & family, especially thy excellent partner
in life,

I remain,

thy aff.^{to} friend

Geo. W. Walker.

P.S. My friends will please to continue to direct to me
at the Post Office, Cape Town. If all be well I shall
arrange with the Postmaster to forward my letters after
me, w^h will be easily managed. — We have sent some
copies of a Tract we have just printed to a few friends in Eng^d
thy husband's name is among those inscribed. The present
edition is in English, but we are getting translations
prepared in Dutch, & in French, the latter for the Mauritius.
The Dutch copies we mean to take with us on our projected
tour. I hope we shall meet with some good people
among them; indeed I do not doubt we shall. We have
already become acquainted with a few in Cape Town.