

To Geo: Joseph Yates. Launceston.

Hobart Town 20/4 Mo. 1843.

Dear friend

George Jos. Yates.

I feel disposed to address a few lines to thee at this time, and to ask thee how thou art getting along in thy present allotment. It has been to myself a cause of regret that thou shouldst have fixed thy dwelling on the other side of the Island. At the same time if it be the right place for thee, & thou art favoured to maintain a right standing in it, I would not, and ought not to desire a different arrangement. I have heard of thee from time to time thro' one medium or other, or thou wouldst have most likely received a line from me long ere this. But, though less engrossed than when thou wast our welcome visitor, I still have very little time for any but absolutely necessary correspondence.

Wm. Horton some little time since shewed me a letter from thee with which I was much pleased. He & his wife are both in my estimation deserving young people, & I believe, desirous to do what is right. The counsel they received from thee was pertinent, & I hope they will be enabled to adhere to it. I think W. H. would have been better off if he had kept on with McGregor, doing also what private jobs he could command. The shop was too great an undertaking for him without Capital, & has much hampered him, & nearly upset his health. He is now better, & is proposing to enter into partnership with a young man named Allison, who has a small

stock of materials, & if they both prove as steady & industrious as W.H. has heretofore been, they may do well. I have, however, one insuperable objection to his contemplated partnership. As far as I can learn, his partner is not a religious man, & in business partnerships, as well as in those for life, to which these are only secondary in importance, I am of the decided judgment that the parties uniting should be of one mind & practice in regard to what after all is, or should be, the main business of life. When persons act & judge by different standards of right & wrong cordial union is not to be anticipated, and the want of it is not merely calculated to interrupt that harmony of intercourse which should subsist between persons thus associated, but also to endanger their success. But to return from this digression.

My mind has frequently ~~has frequently~~ been turned to thee since thou left, especially of late, & a desire has prevailed that thou mightst not be discouraged by the delay that has occurred in answering thy request to be received into membership. The impracticability of maintaining personal intercourse has necessarily thrown some obstacles in the way; but there are those amongst us who continue to feel a lively interest in thy welfare, in every sense, & would indeed be sorry to add at all to thy trials, or do any thing that might retard thy spiritual advancement or tend to thy discomfort. Yet it will not afford thee matter of surprise that, in a question of such importance, Friends should act upon the Apostolic injunction: "Lay hands suddenly on no man:" especially as thou hast made but a short sojourn amongst us; & art likely to remain

so far away from us in future. I am sure thou wilt see the propriety of Friends in all such matters avoiding a hasty decision, but rather waiting to try the fleece, as it were, both wet & dry. I know by my own experience on a like occasion, that this is not grateful to that in us which would prompt to impatience, & which is not wanting in suggesting hard thoughts, even of the brethren, because any thing like a doubt of fitness to be received should be implied by delay. But should there exist any lurking feeling of this sort, it should indeed be brought to the light, & be submitted to the searching judgment of the Spirit of truth. For that which cannot abide in patience & in love, even though our brethren were in the wrong, is not of God.

But, my dear friend, I may frankly tell thee my impression is, that a certain latitude of expression & of criticism to which I think thou art prone, in animadverting upon the principles & conduct of others, has materially conduced to retard the decision that might otherwise have been come to, possibly, in thy case. For, circumstanced as thou wouldst be as a Member, & nearly alone in thy profession of the Truth, the wisdom or caution of the serpent, united to the harmlessness of the dove, would seem to be in a most especial manner needed: and any thing like want of <sup>sound</sup> discretion in advocating or upholding even the thing that is good, would be calculated to bring a cloud as it were over the minds of thy friends in their endeavours to come at a right decision. And I must give it as my candid belief that this want of discretion thou hast at times been betrayed into, & I think the letters that have been addressed to thy correspondents here have some of them borne evidence of it in

a degree that has afforded me & others pain. For judge of us as thou mayst, from what I have said, or at least I can speak for myself, — I entertain no other feeling towards thee than ~~that of Christian love~~ is compatible with Christian love, which I do assure thee, as before the Lord, has prompted these admonitory hints. Donot think that I am ready to cast the stone at thee with avidity. I know too well how easy it is to go astray from the direct line of propriety to the right hand as well as to the left, if the strictest watch be not observed, and that state of mind (through the effectual aid of Divine Grace) maintained that may not inaptly be designated as comparable to "the meekness and gentleness of Christ." Well, my friend, He, the judge who standeth at the door, is not wanting in administering reproof when we turn to the right hand or to the left, and if thou art in any degree conscious of having brought such reproofs at times upon thyself thou wilt the more readily receive admonitory counsel from a brother who knows how easy it is to be betrayed into temptation, and can therefore sympathize with those who are tempted.

The Monthly Meeting having deputed me to correspond with thee on its behalf, in reference to thy application, I shall be glad to hear from thee as thou feel'st liberty;

And remain, with love,

thy friend,

Glo. W. Walker.

My Wife desires her Christian regards. Thy little playfellow, J. B. W. & his Sister (now 3 mo. old) are in usually good health. The former toddles about alone & is fuller than ever of mischief.