

Hobart Town 24/5 Mo. 1843

My dear young friend
Richard Smith Benson

Thy visit here though short left an agreeable impression on my mind, & the feeling of Christian interest then excited has been revived & perhaps increased, since I heard of thy settling down with my friend Geo. Jos. Yates. I hope the connection will be mutually pleasant & profitable.

Our Monthly Meeting held alternately at Hobart Town and Kelvedon (Gt. Swanport) will fall in course to be held here on the 1st of next month; & as persons who have the right of membership in Great Britain ^{are rec?} as such here, on due notification of being members, & provided they are walking consistently with that profession, & have not by misconduct forfeited their claim to it; I would suggest the propriety of thy addressing a few lines to our Mo. Meeting, requesting to be recognized as in profession with us, which I trust will be thy desire; & at the same time forwarding any document thou mayst possess certifying to Membership in England. Though shouldst thou not have such by thee, this need be no hinderance to thy ultimate recognition as proposed - provided only thou art one with us in faith & practice, & state thy Membership in England.

I cannot but in some degree rejoice that thou art settled on shore - for few young men get good at sea. Thou art also fixed with one of like profession, & art I trust under much more favourable circumstances for making religious advancement. Mayst thou duly improve

these advantages: and may they excite a grateful feeling towards that Almighty Being who has so ordered thy lot; disposing thee at the same time to yield thy heart unto the guidance of thy Preserver & Redeemer, who visits with the reproofs of instruction, & will not withhold from thee any real good as thou art concerned to walk uprightly. Let me remind thee, dear Richard, of the importance of being select in thy choice of associates, avoiding intimacy with all such as fear not the Lord; whose favour & preservation it should be thy first and highest aim to secure, making all human friendships, and every thing else, subservient thereto.

To those who thus choose Him for their portion - especially in their youth - devoting the prime of their days to His service, He will prove himself indeed - the "Friend that sticketh closer than a brother." In proof, already, of his willingness thus to help thee, & regard thee as an object of his peculiar care, does not the Lord by the reproofs & admonitions of his eternal Spirit frequently direct thee, as it were, in the way that thou shouldst go? And as thou hast followed these intimations has not peaceful retrospect been thy portion? whilst on the contrary, how bitter has been the conviction that a deaf ear has been turned to the voice of the heavenly Teacher. Prize these gracious teachings, and yield obedience, dear Richard, as thou valuest thy life, & every thing else that is worth living to secure. Now is the time to take up the cross - in the little things that are clearly seen to be contrary to the Divine Will, as well as in those of apparently greater moment

bat in respect to which conviction is often not more decided & clear though the former are often less heeded, & thereby great loss is sustained, even sometimes till the distinction between right & wrong in reference to the acknowledged important matters is clouded or lost.

Frequently commune with thy own heart & be still, as before the Lord, making diligent search, that by the aid of his Grace & faith in this precious ^{gift} given thro' a crucified Saviour, the evil may be shunned & the good followed, or where thou mayst be like to stumble, his mercy may be known to hold thee up. Thus will thy goings be established.

The writings of early Friends in addition to the frequent & daily perusal of the Scriptures will be very helpful in strengthening thy good resolutions, & quickening thy understanding in the fear of the Lord.

Be also regular in attendance of meetings when practicable; though if necessarily debarred, by distance or other causes, remember that the Lord's rights all who call upon him in sincerity & truth: and that any, or every place may thus be made a place of worship, from whence the sincere breathings of the soul may rise with acceptance.

25/5 Mo. My wife writes with me in love to thee & our friend G. Yates.

Thy sincere friend

Geo. W. Walker

I hear G. Yates is likely to be in town next week. If so, or at any rate, I shall hope to hear from thee.