

To Anna Maria Whitfield (now Bolger.)
Formerly of Swan River - now of Launceston V.D.L.

Cape Town S. Africa 22/8 Mo. 1840.

To Anna Maria Whitfield
My esteemed friend.

When I inform thee that thy truly welcome and interesting letter dated 5/9 Mo. 1838, only reached my dear Companion & myself a few days ago, thou wilt have a fresh proof before thee of the importance of having our dependance weaned from man, and placed on the Lord, the effectual Teacher & Helper of his dependent Children, and who is at all times near to direct and succour them. Need I assure thee that it afforded us occasion to rejoice on thy behalf on being apprised of the change that has taken place in thy mind, and that thy gracious Lord has been pleased to lift up the light of his countenance upon thee? ~~I trust not.~~ I trust notwithstanding the long silence of thy friends may have appeared to thee somewhat unaccountable, thou wouldst not give place to the idea that our feelings of Christian interest on thy behalf were diminished. Let me however in a few words account for this long delay in resuming our correspondence. We arrived at the Cape in the end of 6th Mo. 1838, having been detained three months at the Mauritius. After a tarriance of nearly the same period in Cape Town, preparing for a long journey through the interior of Africa, and in this interval no opportunity presenting for communication with Swan River, we started from Cape Town in the end of 9th Mo. 1838, on a general visit to the Towns, Villages, & Missionary Institutions of the Colony, as well as to such of the latter

latter as laid beyond the Colonial Boundary. This journey, which has caused us to traverse upwards of 6000 miles, partly on horseback, but nearly one half of it in a wagon drawn by fourteen oxen at the rate of 22 miles per hour, has necessarily occupied much time, and from our local position we neither had the opportunity of knowing when, or if any, means presented for sending anything to Western Australia, nor were we indeed furnished with the Book which we had promised thee. On our return to this place in 6th month last we found some boxes of books awaiting our arrival which will enable us to fulfil our promise, as they contained copies of Barclay's apology, along with some others that we trust will afford thee interest & instruction, & of which we proposed sending ~~these~~ copies the first opportunity. No vessel had however yet turned up. Yesterday, for the first time, & only four days after the receipt of thy letter, we noticed an advertisement at the Post Office, of a mail for the Swan, of wh^{ch} we shall avail ourselves with avidity; & can only regret that circumstances have not favoured an earlier expression of our continued sympathy and concern for thee under thy varied, & no doubt often painful mental exercises.

I am by no means surprized at the acknowledgment thou hast so explicitly made of thy convictions as to the accordance of Friends' principles with the Gospel. For I could not doubt at the period of our sojourn in Western Australia that thy mind was the subject of a precious visitation from the Lord, yea of the Dayspring from on high. And ardent was the solicitude, & fervent craving of my soul, that the Lord would take thee under his peculiar care & guidance. And blessed be his Name! He continues to lead those gently

along who desire to become more & more acquainted with his voice, the voice of the true Shepherd. And though they are permitted to hear as it were the cry of the Wolf and devourer, the grand adversary of their souls, yet does this only serve under the over-ruling of the Most High to drive his people more closely to Him, the true Shepherd & Bishop of souls, and thus going in and out before him they find pasture. They have bread to eat that the world knows not of, and waters gush out of this Rock, as they travel thro' the Wilderness;— they participate of the same spiritual food, and all drink of the same spiritual drink that have sustained his people in all ages— Christ Jesus, the Rock & Refuge of the righteous. Under what a variety of similitudes is our great & glorious Highpriest set forth to us in his various offices: He is not only the Foundation, but the chief Corner-stone of the spiritual building: he is bread to the hungry, and water to the thirsty soul, as well as wine,— the new wine of the kingdom to the fainting and needy. He is milk to babes, as well as strong meat to the more advanced in spiritual stature. And above all, my Sister, he is the compassionate Advocate & Mediator with the Father,— the Propitiation for all sins whether of omission or commission; and for whose sake alone our services are accepted, whether performed in strength or weakness, & in whatever degree of perfection (as the measure of faith may enable us to lay hold of his omnipotent strength;) for whose sake alone, I repeat, they and we are accepted, in Him the Beloved." I greatly desire for thee that thy faith may be built on Christ, that He may be thy all in all. Then when made
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to feel the burden of thy own fallen condition by nature, thou wilt not be discouraged, so as to despair, but rather will roll it upon Him who can sustain it & thee, having paid the penalty in his own person on the cross, & by one offering having forever perfected all them who are sanctified. And though the progress of sanctification may appear to be slow, & thou mayst be ready even to doubt at times whether it makes any advance at all, remember, "one day is with the Lord as a thousand years & a thousand years as one day." If he has visited thee in thy lowest and most sinful state, when thy heart was altogether estranged from him, will He now leave thee when living desires of his own awakening have been raised in thee, that thou mayst experience a further acquaintance with Him who is "the chiefest of ten thousand," & altogether lovely to the thirsting & needy soul? No, far from it, there is every encouragement for thee to cast all thy care upon Him who careth for thee, & who maketh thy cause his own, in the bond of the everlasting covenant. Consider, "He that spared not his own Son but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things." Come boldly then, through Him who is the new & living way, to the throne of grace, that under every trial, difficulty & discouragement, thou mayst receive of his strength to sustain thee, & may not only obtain mercy, but receive grace to help in future time of need.

Thy situation as regards those who may not be capable of entering into thy feelings, or appreciating thy views & motives, is one that excites our lively sympathy. But though it requires the exercise of "the caution of the serpent

combined with the innocence of the dove," the Lord will sooner move heaven & earth for thy help, than permit (whilst thou continuest to look unto Him & trust in Him for help) that thou shouldst be confounded. Be not surprised nor dismayed if thou seest in retrospect wherein thou hast failed, or missed thy way; but under such humiliating review, acknowledge the truth, that if the Lord withdraw the support of his omnipotent arm one moment, that moment thou art liable to fall from thy steadfastness. And therefore let the consciousness of thy own helplessness and need, furnish a motive for fervent, yea mighty prayer to thy all-availing Redeemer & Friend. They that trust in Him shall never be confounded. Yea, "though they may [momentarily] fall, they shall not be utterly cast down, for the Lord upholdeth them with his hand." And he will over-rule even their short-comings and slips to the good of their souls as they are humbled under a sense of the same; and will make these so many fresh incitements to watchfulness & more unreserved faith in the Arm of Divine power; We have not to do with a hard or austere master, but One who looks at the best of our souls. He considers our frame & remembereth that we are dust, & therefore has provided a Saviour & Highpriest, who can be touched with the feeling of our infirmities, who was in all points tempted like as we are yet without sin, & who knoweth how to succour them that are tempted. Under all circumstances come to his footstool; pour out thy complaints & sorrows as into his ear, with the simplicity & confidence of a little child that leans upon the breast of its parent. May this unreserved, filial, child-like confidence be thine. And fall not into the error that

that many do when weighed down with the sense of infirmity,
or even sin, as it may be, — of supposing that in this wretched
state of mind thou art not in a condition to come to Jesus —
it is the very reason thou shouldst the more unreservedly and
perseveringly cast thyself as at his feet. And the act of faith
under the most trying circumstances, even the sense of deep
self-condemnation, will yet assuredly meet with his acceptance.
Those who thus come unto him, he will not — he cannot cast
out. May the Lord supply all thy need, through the riches
of his mercy in Christ Jesus, perfecting that which concern-
eth thee, and enabling thee to glorify him in body, soul, and
spirit, is the fervent desire of thy friend, & companion in the
tribulations, as well as consolations, of the Gospel.

George Washington Walker.

P.S. Though these lines are penned by one, thou must
regard my dear Companion & Fellow-labourer, J. Backhouse,
as associated with the writer in every sentiment expressive
of interest in thy religious welfare. He desires his love to
thee, which thou wilt please to extend on our joint behalf
to thy father, mother, sisters, & brothers in law, also to our
friends the Weylons. Often have J.B. & myself thought of
you & talked about you, & we shall be truly glad to hear
of your welfare in every sense. In future direct, J. Back-
house, York, England whither he purposes proceeding shortly.
My own address is G.W.W. Hobart Town, V. Isl. I shall
expect to hear from thee on the receipt of this — as soon after
at least as an opportunity occurs. I am now awaiting a vessel to
convey me to V. Isl. where I am about to settle. Thy applica-
tion, or request to be regarded as a member of the Society will

properly come under the consideration of the Meeting of Friends there established, to whom I shall submit it. The usual procedure under such circumstances is to nominate a few Friends as a Committee to correspond with the party who is at a distance.

N.B. The above, as thou wilt perceive, was written in expectation of being sent by a vessel to Swan River, but, thro' some change in the ships destination, no mail was forwarded. I accordingly brought the letter & books with me to V.D.L. In the interim I have been apprised of thy marriage, of which I was wholly ignorant when the preceding was penned, but shall nevertheless send it as it is. Sincerely & fervently do I crave that this important step may conduce to the highest welfare of thyself & husband, for whom, - that is, for the latter, I shall also feel a Christian interest as associated with thee. All I have at present to add is that I await thy instructions in regard to the forwarding of the Books either in whole or in part, as may be most acceptable to thyself & husband.

Believe me to remain,

thy sincere friend,

George W. Walker.