

To Anna Maria Bolger. Westbury.

Hobart Town. 25<sup>th</sup> Mo: 1841.

To A. M. Bolger.

My dear friend.

Through some strange remissness at the Post Office I did not receive thy favour of the 24<sup>th</sup> Mo: until nearly four months after it was penned, or I sh<sup>d</sup> in all probability have felt a liberty to reply to it earlier. And though I do not know that I have more than a few remarks to offer at the present moment, I feel disposed to assure thee that I continue to feel a Christian interest on thy behalf, & shall rejoice at all times to hear of thy prosperity in the truth, as well as of thy general welfare, and that of those who are nearest & dearest to thee.

Whatever may have been the change in thy religious views since thou addressed Jas. Backhouse & myself from the Swan River, the end & aim of our correspondence will be essentially answered (I may say in truth) if Christ remains to be "thy Chief Corner Stone, & Sure Foundation" (to use thy own words;) and "thy one aim that thou mayst be found in God a new creature, & by a humble, consistent walk, adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour." Hold fast this profession without wavering, in integrity & godly sincerity, & the Lord will hold thee as in the hollow of his hand, & will render thee finally victorious over every spiritual enemy. O that thou mayst continue to "seek the Lord daily for that guidance without which it is impossible to stand!" It is what I have most anxiously desired for thee; & in our past correspondence, my object has been to encourage thee



to draw near to the foot of the cross - to sit as at the feet of Jesus - that thou mayst know him to be thy Shepherd, thy Leader, & Guide; for he teaches as never man taught, & will not only teach thee to distinguish between truth & error, but will condescend to guide his dependent ones into all truth; thus fulfilling the ancient promise to his Church: "all thy children shall be taught of the Lord, & great shall be the peace of thy children; in righteousness shall they be established." The accomplishment of this promise in thy individual experience seems to include the length & breadth, (so to speak) of my concern for thee as a Christian sister, & fellow-pilgrim to another & heavenly country, & not I do assure thee, any wish to establish thee in any of the mere creeds or formularies of men. Nor do I like controversy on any subject, though it may sometimes be our duty to "contend for the faith once delivered to the saints," so far as we may have apprehended it. But I think on a reference to my letters thou wilt not find that they savour of controversy or creeds, but they direct to Him who is essentially "the way, the truth, & the life." If thou hast been brought to his footstool there I would encourage thee to abide, and hearken from time to time, to the gracious words that proceed from Him the inspeaking & eternal Word, & who is a true "discerner of the thoughts & intents of the heart; yea, all things are open & bare before the eyes of him with whom we have to do; & though Satan, or his emissaries might be transformed into angels of light, yet can he discover the deceit to the truly awakened mind.

If any man will do my Father's will, he shall know of the doctrine whether it be of God; is his own gracious



assurance. If, therefore, thou art but willing & obedient to the heavenly vision, not hearkening to flesh & blood - to the suggestions of carnal reason, & the nature that is in the fall, thou wilt become strong in the Lord & in the power of his might, & wilt continue to experience him, as I trust thou hast measurably in times past proved him to be, "a strong tower & refuge in the day of trouble & calamity, when" the blast of the terrible may be as a storm against the wall," & wilt be able to testify, with countless thousands in the faith, that "thou hast not followed cunningly devised fables."

In regard to those practices adopted by our religious Society which thou designates "needless singularities," I have little or nothing to say respecting them, save that as an individual, I, in common with many others, have been led into their adoption, & have felt my own peace of mind, & progress in my heavenly course dependent on obedience to my convictions. If others do not see these things in the same light - are not led by their Divine Master into their adoption, I should be one of the last to recommend a change from previous habits, unless seen to be wrong, & inconsistent with the simplicity, sincerity, & truth which must ever become the disciples of Him who was meek & lowly of heart, neither was guile found in his mouth. I deem it best to leave persons to find their own way in these things - to follow their own Master - even Christ. Our Society has, probably on the same ground, enjoined no strict rule on the subject beyond that of simplicity & plainness in regard to dress & address. I never knew any who disregarded the principle thus recognized to prosper in spiritual things, therefore I always feel jealous when any change of view in these matters points in the direction of the world.



world, or takes the current of our own fallen inclinations which plead for liberty to follow the vain customs of the world. But how far this may be the case with thee, I know not - for I do not remember that anything has previously passed between us on this subject.

But with respect to thy observations on the public worship of the Most High as practised by "Friends," and the judgment thou hast formed from the attendance of our Meeting in Hobart Town, & what thou observedst there, I am disposed to offer a few remarks, the fruit of experience, & from the nature of which thou wilt perceive I do not at all acquiesce with thee in thy conclusions. My mind has been led to recur to the period when I was myself seeking the knowledge of the Truth, as it is in Jesus, not having attained to the same ground of certainty as has since been my blessed privilege. At the time referred to I attended a Quaker's Meeting, I believe I may say with a sincere desire for a blessing from on high. Whilst sitting in silence my mind became very solemnly impressed, a feeling of sweetness & contrition came over my spirit, which felt bowed as before the Most High God, so that I took little or no notice of who was present, or of aught that might be passing around me, my attention being rivetted by the feeling of the Lord's presence, in a degree that I had not before experienced in any Meeting for <sup>public</sup> worship I had ever attended, I was impressed with the conviction that there were more than two or three gathered together in the name (or power) of Christ, & that he was indeed present in the midst of them; & the secret conclusion was formed in my own soul (I may almost say independently of my own will, which merely yielded to the



conviction that it would be the path of duty, & a high privilege,) to continue to meet with a people who, I was persuaded, were worshippers of God in spirit & in truth. From that day to this, even in my lowest seasons of discouragement, when faith has been at its lowest ebb, have I never for a moment doubted the rectitude or excellence of silent waiting upon God in public as well as in private, as a preparation & needful qualification for religious service whether of a mental or vocal kind.

I remember being confirmed in this view by the expression of a few words, either tow<sup>rd</sup> the latter end of the Meeting referred to, or in that held on the afternoon of the same day, by an individual who was far from being one of the great or wise of this world: but what he said so reached my condition, that I was satisfied it was spoken in the ability which God, who knows the secrets of all hearts, alone can confer: & thus I was assured it arose from the true spring of Gospel Ministry, even the baptizing influence of the Holy Spirit. Now, my dear friend, had I seen 20 persons sleeping around one, though I might have mourned over them secretly as affording proofs of human infirmity, & of slighting the blessed privileges enjoyed by others who were watching with all perseverance, in the spirit, unto prayer - the defection of the former would not have shaken my faith in the excellence of the practice, of the benefits of which I had a proof in my own experience.

And hadst thou, my friend, come into our Meeting in Flo: bart Town less in the spirit of criticism, & more in that of hungering & thirsting after righteousness, it is my assured belief thou wouldst have patiently sat to the end of the Meeting, & have felt thy spirit refreshed in the Lord: for they that truly wait on the Lord do renew their strength,



as I, and thousands can testify from living & heartfelt experience, blessed be the God & Rock of our salvation, whose promises are yea & amen in Christ Jesus! Never can I be sufficiently grateful to the God of my life for having brought me among a people where each may sit under his own vine & under his own fig-tree, communing with the Father of spirits, & worshipping him in spirit, rejoicing in Christ Jesus, & having no confidence in the flesh," or in mere creaturely performances. Should such interrupt the order of their Meetings, they are in general judged down in the authority of the truth: but such instances only seldom occur. In the things however, that appertain to the service of the Most High, how needful is it for us all to attend to the injunction of our blessed Redeemer: "Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment." "He that judgeth righteously" is the Lord. "This Judge ever standeth at the door" of our hearts, & is ready to be "a spirit of judgment to them that sit in judgment," as well as "strength to them that turn the battle to the gate." To Him therefore I would commend thee, who can enable thee to discern between the precious & the vile, between those things that serve him, & those which serve him not. And may "thy faith stand not in the wisdom of man," or of any set of men, "but in the power of God" - even in Christ Jesus who is "the wisdom of God & the power of God" to every one that so believeth.

I feel obliged by thy & thy husbands expressions of good-will. Please to present my best wishes to the latter. The utmost that I dare wish for you or myself, is that we may all be found walking in the fear of the Lord, that



thus we may be prepared to stand before his Judgment Seat with acceptance, through his unmerited mercy in Christ Jesus.

My dear Wife, though unknown to thee, would be included in my messages of remembrance, being wot to share with me, (as a true help-meat which she is,) in those feelings of interest which I cherish towards many whom I have met with in the course of my recent travels.

I shall be glad to hear from thee whenever communication through this medium may seem to thee profitable, or pleasant; & should any Book, or Books be acceptable, I shall gladly send them, if in my power, to thy address.  
With Christian regards,

Believe me to remain,

thy sincere friend,

George W. Walker.