

Samuel Benson

January 9th 1822

Mrs Mather
Ranagate
Hend

London

Jan 4 9. 1822 -

My dear Sister,

As you may be soon we
are very desirous to promote your welfare
we were glad to receive your last letter,
but at the same time did not but feel
pain to hear a statement from yourself
so contradictory to that which had been
reported by some of your fellow passengers.

I myself am daily & hourly very much
engaged from a variety of causes, but at
the same time cannot forget to sympathize
with you in this season of your adversity.

You will not however think me enthusiastic
when I say that I hope this is but the ~~beginning~~
beginning of good days to come. This is ^{my} a great
exercise of your faith & patience. But fail
not to commit your cause to Him with the
whole nation a sparrow falleth not to the

ground. You will find he is still with
his people leading them "through life's desolate
worn" to mansions of bliss prepared for
them by the Lord Jesus Christ. View the unhappy
events by which you were brought into your
present situation in their Supreme Authors
will as their true cause & then you will adore
in humble silence his unsearchable judgments,
his impenetrable secrets: you will reverence
the holiness of his decrees, bless the guidance
of his providence, & uniting your will to
the will of God himself you will choose with
Him, in Him & for Him the very same
events which he in you & for you has chosen
from all eternity. We see now through
a glass darkly but we shall soon see face
to face & know as we are known. You have
waded thro' deep waters: the sea has run high:
you have had to contend with the winds
& the waves. I perhaps well nigh shipwrecked

but Jesus may come, in the third watch of the
night - & then may succeed a great calm.
Only let your faith hold out ~~then~~ the deliverance
entirely consists in this. But why sh^d you
be faithless? Proofs of his love & power have
not been wanting. Has he not delivered you
on a former occasion & do you mean to charge
God with changableness? I know you do
not. No. He is the same as ever: - immutable.
And he has been infinitely kind to you in
this hard time of your extremity: he has
heard your cries & tears: he has put it
into the hearts of a few kind friends to send
you the relief you stand in need of. Their
names perhaps will be unknown to you
till that day when the secrets of all hearts
shall be revealed & then you will be
rewarded together with them. I spend a
happy eternity together in that hour
not made with hands eternal in the
heavens singing the song of Moses & the Lamb.

Mrs Mortimer has shewn great solicitude
respecting you & she, together with a few of
your more respectable & particular friends,
having heard of your distress are desirous of
manifesting the great love they have for you by
coming forward to your help in the time of
your need. Whatever is done will be as
private as possible both because a gift count
might be painful to you, & also because
such a count is more consistent with
the spirit of Xth love. These ladies know
you did not contemplate being confined
on ship board & therefore they intend to furnish
you with a quantity of such things as you
are likely to want on such an occasion.
They will also send you a present of
a little money: how much I cannot say
& indeed I sh^d be unwilling to hazard
an opinion, ~~as well as to~~ I sh^d
not wish to raise expectations which will
not be gratified: ~~for the same~~ I had rather

not cause any disappointment on that subject.
But as you will undoubtedly want many
extra things beside those allowed by govern-
ment, ~~then~~ it is the principal object of this
letter to gain from you a list of those things.
Mr. Kiddlestone will inform you that the
allowance furnished by government consists
of Bread, Meat, Soup &c., ^{to all} & Tea & Sugar
only to the females & children. You will
however want wine & spirits & various
other things, of which, as you are the proper
judge, you will be kind enough to send
a particular list & also what will be a
sufficient ~~article~~ quantity of each article.
Mr. M together with some members of
the family thought this would be better,
as the diff^t articles would be procured cheaper
in London: but it is entirely at your
own option. If you & Mr. Mathe prefer it
they will send what little may be collected

Lyons can find them yourselves: or they will
purchase what will be useful & send you
the rem^{de} of the money: as they are away
you will want some when you get over.
The ship Herminie is determ^d upon vis this
day gone into dry dock. The Captⁿ is not
Captⁿ Steele, but another person: & I have
the great pleasure of telling you that we
are in some hopes of Drury being appt^d
mate: as ^{Mess^r} Harlow Watson are the ship
brokers for this vessel; but dont rejoice
till you know certainly. The ship in which
you are to sail is 316 tons burthen & is much
higher between decks than Hope. She is not
expected to sail bef^e the end of January.

There have been various statements
in the daily papers respecting the Hope
some stating how badly she was provisioned
others on the reverse, that there were
provisions enough on board & of the very

best kind for a longer voyage & more persons: that there were 60 hams on board &c &c. And this last account appears to have been written by the person who had the provisioning of it & not by either the owner or captain — The truth of it your statement sufficiently refutes.

Tuesday — I have just been with Mr. Halpin & am sorry to tell you he has nothing now to do with the Heroine. He had while she was in the West India service: but has since sold her to another person & he will be very happy to have done any thing for you in his power. He also gives us very little hopes of Drury's success as the present owners are very largely in the shipping way & he thinks will not take into their service a private person.

I can do nothing more but commit
you to God & to the Word of his grace
who is able to support you under the
present trying circumstances, to build
you up in the faith & to give you an
inheritance above all which the fleeting
world can afford. Gain in the spirit:
meditate much upon the sufferings of X^t
Labour always, to enter within & sail
then will your peace flow as a river
& your righteousness as a flowing stream.
How little, very little will our heaviest
afflictions & trials here, appear in a future
state. We who are in this tabernacle
groan being burdened not that we
~~may~~^{we} be unclothed but clothed upon that
mortality may be swallowed up of life.
Seek more in patience & resignation to
purge your soul. It is God who speaks

to you: be willing therefore to learn thou lessons
from this visitation of his providence with
it was intended to produce & with the end
being answered the rod itself will be removed.
He does not willingly afflict us, but that
we may be partakers of his holiness:

that we may see our own natural weakness
& dependance: that we may live a life
of faith upon His Son our blessed Saviour:

that we may be stripped of all our
self confidence: He an entirely good
He brought us into the world has hitherto
sustained us by his Providence, bestowed
upon us unnumbered blessings, redeemed
us by the death of his ~~dearly~~ only Son
is now waiting to be gracious unto us.

He has so framed us that he has made
maintenance near & far the support of our body
This he will not deny us, while we

use the proper means I look for his blessing
"Thy bread shall be given thee & thy water
shall be run" I have often thought how
thankful we ought to be for the promise
in God's most holy word. Think only if we
had nothing but the morality ~~shall~~ ^{shall} call it,
of Socrates & Seneca to depend upon. No we
live not under that dark dispensation. We
have the light of the Sun of Righteousness
shining upon us: the clouds of thick darkness
we have hung over our forefathers are now
dispersed. And although many things yet
remain hid in impenetrable ~~darkness~~ ^{mystery}
yet thanks be to God for a saviour & for
God & for a certain knowledge of a
future state of happiness & misery & how
we may avoid the one & obtain the other.

But with the blessings with God in his
rich mercy is so often conferring upon us

how strange is it that we sh^d immorally
forget our great want of those blessings
& not render to him those due acknow-
ledgments which he expects. Of this I am
very confident that if we were but more
grateful, we sh^d receive more answers
to prayer & sh^d have far fewer of what
are called the miseries of human life.

Through this heinous sin we make many
of our trials & if removed we bring them
on again. May God in mercy ever keep
you & I at the greatest distance from it.

But I have let my pen run on
without thinking of your patience or my
own time. You will I trust forgive me.

+ Sarah & I w^{ld} beg your acceptance
of the enclosed: it is hardly worth reading
but you will I doubt not receive it as
a little testimony of our unforgotten
affection & as the widow's gift for the Gospel.

who when the rich were casting open abundance
into the treasury, had only two mites to
put in, so you will give us credit for
doing more if it were at all in our
power -

I have now nothing more to add you
that I desire you will rest assured every
thing will be done for you which is possible
constantly with the shortness of your term.

As soon as you can make up your mind
~~respectfully~~ ~~expressed~~ it is particularly
requested you will write - With affectionate
remembrances to Mr. Mather & all your dear
children believe me to be still

your affectionate Brother
Samuel Benson

of
to Mrs. Mather