

[illegible]

& it is an unspeakable comfort to know the Lord is every where present.
& is intimately near to do us good: it would gratify us much to hear from
you, giving us a particular of your state as it respects body & mind, how you
feel in your present circumstances & situation; that we may sympathize with
you & bear your burdens; we were exceedingly disappointed in not having a
single line from you, surely you have not lost all affection for us, why was you
so unkind, & Mr M. scarcely mentioned you; so that we were ready to indulge
many fears & reasonings respecting you: but let us intrust you for the future,
to write at every possible opportunity, fully & explicitly: we are anxiously
concerned for your happiness & welfare. You will wish to hear how we are
going on in England, from a letter I sent you near twelve months ago, you would
learn that Louella had been brought to bed of a still born child, & had passed thro
great suffering, after recovering from wh she was induced to go ^{by} the steam
Packet to Hull, to stay a few weeks with Mr M's sister, wh proved beneficial
to her, & she is now in a tolerable state of health, & expects every day to be confined
again: they are going on much in the old way. Jos's family are well. Bro
John & family are as far as we know tolerable. the latter end of last year
I was induced from various circumstances to take a journey into Yorkshire,
& spent 3 months very pleasantly with many friends who knew & much
loved my beloved Father & Mother, & from there I again went to Shropshire
& staid 3 months till my Brother Sam^l had entered into Orders, wh he did on
the 9th of March last, & was ordained to the Curacy of Horsey Down, with Mr
Abdy - to whose Curacy you will recollect Bro John was ordained; but soon
after he had entered upon it, in the mysterious Providence of God, Mr Abdy
was seized with a Paralytic stroke & died; so that for some months, Broth

Sam^l has had the whole duty almost entirely upon him; on this account
we have been in much suspense & anxiety. Mr. May Jun^r has obtained
the living, & tho' he does not need to retain my Bro^r in the capacity of
curate, yet by the unanimous votes of the Parish, who have expressed
great esteem & favour in many ways, ^{to him} he has been appointed the after-
noon Lecturer, so that at present it is most probable we shall remain in
this part; we have got a comfortable little house near the Church: & begin
to feel a little settled, & shall I trust be happy & useful by the blessing of God.
we have much reason to be thankful, the Lord has graciously helped, provided
for & given us a measure of health, & it is our one desire to dedicate ourselves
to his service & to live to his glory. May the Lord be your refuge &
in every season of trial & temptation, may the consolations of the
be yours, may you live a life of faith here, & be made meet for glory in
that that blessed world, where sorrow pain & fasting shall be no more, is the
most ardent & constant prayer of your ever affectionate sister -
With very kind love to Mr. M^r & all the dear children. Sarah Benson
P.S. Since I wrote the above have heard from Bro^r John he informs us of the receipt of your
letter w^{ch} affords us much pleasure. I am with affectionate regards

My A^r Sister, I have desired Sarah to write
the above as I happen to be very particularly
engaged & have only a short & free time. But I consider
it necessary to inform you that our affairs are in
a very unsettled state. In consequence of Mr. Smith's
creditors having entered into a chancery suit against his exors
we have also been obliged to file a bill in chancery to forego
the mortgage & thus the matter rests & is likely to rest for
some considerable time. so that the exors. can't execute their will

Our Father's Memoirs have been published 8 months
but they have not sold as we expected so that we are in arrears
£210 with our Bookseller, but I hope they will gradually
go off. - I send you a copy of them & of the letters - In order to
sell partly with Blanchard we have been obliged to borrow
the sum of £100. This in cons^{ce} of the bad sale of the Life we do
not borrow on the credit of that nor of the S^r Works, but at an
advanced interest. - By the enclosed ^{copy of the substance of an} ~~statement~~ ^{presentation} you will

Samuel Benson

1823-

July 9th 1823

Mrs Mathew

Hobart Town

Van Diemens Land



on what has been done; & I hope you will willingly
assist to it. Indeed, I think, could I how far you are removed
from us, it would have been your wisest way to have
sold your interest in the works to the S^r members of the
family -

We are much pleased to hear of the improvement
in yr health, & the flattering prospects before you, but regret
you have not been more open with your friends in London &