

Sarah Benson

9<sup>th</sup> April 1822.

Mrs Mather. —

Deptford. —

My dearly beloved Sister.

You will I doubt not excuse  
my coming again to see you, as Sister Leah  
is gone, together with M<sup>r</sup> W. to stay a few days  
at M<sup>r</sup> Woods, at Norwood, & was necessitated to  
take the servant with them to attend upon <sup>her</sup> she  
being still much afflicted, therefore I cannot leave  
the house: & besides I really think the fasting would  
be too much for us both, be assured, my dear Sister  
that you lie near my heart, & the concern I have  
for your welfare is insupportable, it is painful to  
be thus separated, but I would fain indulge a hope  
that we shall again meet in the body, if not I trust  
we shall all meet to spend a never ending eternity in  
those blissful regions, where pain & fasting shall be no  
more. Oh that we may all be fully prepared for that  
state: of how little importance will it then be what  
has been our lot in this world, whether our path has  
been rough & thorny, or smooth & easy, only so far as  
our holiness & usefulness has been promoted. Though  
absent in body, still we are present in spirit, & I

most sincerely intreat you to remember me at the throne of grace, as I hope ever to do you, beseeching the Lord who alone is able to support, comfort, direct & help you thro' all that you may have to pass thro' in your pilgrimage. I had a letter from Sam. today wherein he expresses great solicitude for you & yours, & begs me to let you know, that as a family, we have thought it advisable to set apart a day for fasting & prayer, to intreat the Lord that if consistent with his will he may remove from us as a family those various afflictions under which many of us at present labour, & particularly in behalf of you & family, that the blessing of God may rest upon you, we have appointed Tuesday next, as a suitable day, we have also proposed that from 6 to 7 on the even<sup>g</sup> of that day should be particularly set apart by each of us, so that our united prayers may ascend as incense before God. Sarah begs me to say she is sorry that it has been out of her power to see you, desires her very kind love to you & M<sup>r</sup> M. I have enclosed an account of the money collected by M<sup>r</sup> M. from which you will perceive, that I have still in my hands £7<sup>..</sup>3<sup>..</sup>3 with which I have to pay M<sup>r</sup> Witt for porter, &c what may remain, which will not be much, I will give to M<sup>rs</sup> Mather toward paying for the various things she has bought for you. One thing I do request & that is that you will write or get some

one, to let us know as often as  
go on, you may be sure we shall  
to hear how you get on, & I only wish I was  
to bear all your burdens, but I must commit into  
hands of Him who is ever the refuge & strength of  
those who trust in Him, that you may at all times  
& in all seasons be favoured with the consolations  
of his Spirit is the ardent prayer of your ever  
affectionate Sister

Sarah Benson

April 9<sup>th</sup> 1822.

If you have any thing to say to me, tell Alfred  
who I doubt not will deliver it faithfully. Adieu  
Give my very kind love to Mr. M. & tell  
I have confidence in him that to the utmost of his  
power he will take care of you & the dear children.