

113 Dancy Street  
Hobart, Tasmania

1<sup>st</sup> of 5<sup>th</sup> Month 1882 -

My dear Cousin, C. D.

I give thee much thanks for thy kind and informing letter of the 9<sup>th</sup> of 2<sup>nd</sup> Mo. which I received on the 21<sup>st</sup> of 3<sup>rd</sup>. - I was glad to find that all thou required came safely to hand; not that I doubt the safety of the post, for I have no recollection of any thing going astray all the time we have been here, but I did not post them myself and they might have been lost between my house and the post office. - With regard to lithographing the Pedigree thou must do as thou thinks best, as thou must be more conversant with such matters than I am, but I will cheerfully bear half the expense,

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if it meets with thy approval. The hand  
<sup>work</sup> will be very tedious and take up such a  
large amount of time, which in our day  
with those who occupy the middle walk  
of life is very precious. - Shouldst thou  
still be of the mind that written ones  
will be best, please copy the one thou  
purposes sending me upon a good tough  
paper that will bear a good deal of turn  
-ing about without tearing, as I shall  
have to lend it to a good many. -

And now my dear Cousin, I will endeavour  
to give thee a brief account of our family;  
and not knowing whether thou hast heard  
anything about thy Aunt I will commence  
by saying, that after thy father went to  
the University she continued to receive in-  
-struction from my Grandfather and  
assisted him in his literary work until  
her marriage with my father in the  
year ~~1811~~ 1811, soon after which her health

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gave way and from the time of my  
birth until her death in 1831. she was  
quite an invalid, - so able to attend to  
her domestic duties, and often entirely  
laid by. My father used to take her  
to the sea side every summer that she  
was able to leave her home, and after  
being there a few weeks she would re-  
gain a measure of health, but on her  
return to the City would as quickly  
lose it. - In the year 1821, the year my  
Grandfather died, the testimony of Med-  
-ical was, that if she was not removed  
from London she would not live  
twelve months. A sea side situation  
was recommended and my father  
~~and my father~~ went to Portsmouth  
to see if he would be able to establish  
a business there as her health had always  
improved when at that place, but  
he found the town almost deserted

and scarcely any business doing, and some friends residing there dissuaded him from attempting it. - While he was in this unsettled state letters were received from the Wesleyan Missionary stationed here giving a glowing description of the climate and of the prospects in a worldly point of view to respectable and industrious persons coming out to settle; and likewise how useful members of the Wesleyan Society might be in a new settlement where there was much evil and very few to instruct & keep down that evil. These letters turned my father's mind towards the colonies and caused him to consider whether as he had to remove from Lancaster he had ~~not better~~ <sup>not better</sup> ~~to remove~~ come here where the climate was good, and where he might be useful at a Christian and maintain his family comfortably than go to a sea-port town in

England where it would be difficult  
to establish a business and he might  
lose all he had. He talked it over  
with my Mother and obtained her con-  
=sent to the arrangement, and then  
made it known to <sup>one</sup> ~~several~~ of the Wes-  
preacher's and several others who  
at once entered into his plan of form-  
ing a party of about six or seven families  
started with us. A vessel was just  
at the time advertised as laid on for  
Sandeman's Land and my father  
went to make the necessary enquiries  
about it and found the owners  
very polite & pleasant & willing to fall  
in as far as he possibly c<sup>d</sup> with  
all his wishes; and said he in-  
tended going out himself in the  
vessel with his family. So it was  
proposed that he sh<sup>d</sup> call at our  
house and make the arrangements

with my father there so that he might be introduced to my Mother. She did so & my Aunt Sarah was there when he called. And after he left she said to my father that he had better take care how he had any dealings with that man for he wd certainly take him in. My father did not think so but she seemed so sure about it, & said <sup>well</sup> whatever arrangements you make have all in his own hand writing with his signature attached. From her persistence my father did so, & it was well he did so things wd have been worse than they were. For he & his partner were both quite as bad as my Aunt had painted him. Through their billany we were 11 <sup>not</sup> all but 6 days from the time of our going on board in the London dock to the day

of our arrival in this Harbour. My Mother was not on board the Ship all that time by my father was with the children & servants. My Mother was on shore in lodgings for 5 Mos. of the time. When we arrived here my father did not take up land & settle upon it as was his intention; altho he brought up a man who understood farming for that purpose but commenced business in the Town, because the Country was in too much & unsettled a state for my Mother to be taken there. \* After some years he took up land in the Country only about 9 miles from Hobart on the opposite side of the Derwent & my Mother chiefly resided there until her death. — In those days persons coming out with property

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had a certain number of acres of land given by the government accord-  
ing to the amount of Capital they  
had brought into the Colony -  
we had 1200 acres but we had  
we <sup>at</sup> more had it been taken up when  
we first arrived; but we got two  
grants afterwards for improvement;  
we made it double that quantity

We went through a great deal  
of trouble in getting here & had much  
discomfort for many years, especially  
in regard to servants, but my father  
never regretted the step he took - because  
he felt that he had, by so doing, saved  
my mother's life to his family for near  
ly ten years - My brothers are all  
pious, useful men helping forward  
the Redeemer's Kingdom, and respect-  
ed by all who know them -  
Joseph Benson has been a Minister

in the Society of Friends for nearly  
 forty years. His children are all walk-  
 -ing in the fear & love of God - He &  
 his son carry on a woollen drapery  
 business that was my father's -  
 He has also a number of tailors on  
 the premises to make up the cloth he  
 sells - Robert carries on a large line-  
 drapery business in connection with  
 his <sup>1 son & 3 daughters</sup> ~~two~~ <sup>who he has lately taken into partnership</sup> ~~elder~~  
 -out young men - The same can be  
 said of all his children. He himself  
 gives much time to philanthropic  
 & religious work - He is foremost  
 in every movement that he believes  
 will ameliorate the condition of  
 the poor or help the working classes  
 Some years ago he established what  
 is called the "Peoples Hall", Proper-  
 -ly a chapel or place for the religi-  
 -ous teaching of those who do not

attend any of the Chapels or Churches,  
 a younger son keeps a school in one  
 of the Country districts & he has two  
 daughters who are married. —

My brother Samuel Benson was for  
 many years an assistant in Roberts  
 business but now carries on a small  
 book & stationery business in connec-  
 = tion with the sale of bibles for the  
 "Bible Society" and Books & tracts pub-  
 = lished by the "Religious Tract Society".  
 He is superintendent of a <sup>Wesleyan</sup> Sabbath School  
 and a local preacher in that con-  
 = nection. His eldest son an itinerant  
 preacher now stationed in South  
 Australia. His other children all  
 belong to that body of Christians.  
 Two of my brother John's children  
 brought up by Joseph & Robert are  
 also Wesleyans.

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With regard to my own family I can  
 not speak so decidedly of them as  
 of my brother's children; they have been  
 cast from circumstance in a rather  
 different sphere of society from that  
 w<sup>h</sup> their cousins have occupied -  
 I believe the moral conduct of all  
 to be unblemished; but all, I fear,  
 have not experienced that change  
 of heart, without w<sup>h</sup> no man can  
 see God. For some are enticed by fan-  
 -tasmatic parties & conceits and do  
 not listen so as to obey the command  
 "Come ye out from among them & be  
 ye separate" Nor the words of our  
 Saviour, "Ye cannot serve God & man"  
 Upon the death of my husband the Man-  
 -agers of the Savings Bank took him  
 into the Bank where he remained  
 13 or 14 y<sup>r</sup> when he left to study  
 the law. They were very sorry to lose

him out of the bank, as he had perform-  
 ed his work well altho. he never lik-  
 ed it - It was too manumass for  
 him - He passed well in the differ-  
 ent branches of the Law, and soon  
 got into practice, & had several of-  
 fers of partnerships - At last accept-  
 ed one with a gentleman whose father  
 was a solicitor from Edinburgh, and  
 had been in good practice here for more  
 than forty years, when he died leaving one  
 of his younger sons to fill his Place  
 They have plenty of work, and the  
 connection, I believe answers well for  
 both - James attends a Congregational  
 Chapel & has been a teacher in a Sab-  
 bath school belonging to that congrega-  
 tion for more than 20<sup>th</sup> and is much  
 respected by the Minister & his family  
 and all classes of the Community -  
 My second son was brought up to farm-  
 ing but has not succeeded well from

from having made an unwholesome  
connection in marriage, and I am  
satisfied will not be much better  
off as long as she lives - He is  
a serious minded man -

Robert my 3<sup>rd</sup> son upon leaving  
school went, as a junior clerk into  
a Merchant's <sup>office</sup>. He soon began to rise  
and in a few years was at the head  
~~end~~  
He was several times the respon-  
sible person while his master  
made lengthened visits to England  
The strain upon his mind & the  
close confinement so told upon  
his health that about 2 1/2<sup>yr</sup> ago  
the medical man in attendance  
on him said that he must give  
it up or he c<sup>o</sup>uld do no more for him  
nothing else c<sup>o</sup>uld save his life to his  
family He did so & his health has  
much improved He was nearly  
20 yrs there working often late into

The night with scarcely any out-door  
exercise.

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to sacrifice himself he must give up his situation so he c<sup>d</sup> do him no good without he gave himself rest; he c<sup>d</sup> so and his health is much improved and he has now entered into partnership with a young man, who well understands his business, in a large retail concern which the owner wanted to get rid of in order to go to Europe. A friend of theirs bought the business and it is theirs as soon as they can pay for it, w<sup>h</sup> they have to do within a specified time mentioned. There is every probability of their doing so, if my Robert's health is given him, for they are both very industrious and each understands well the department he attends to. They carry on the business in the name of the old Firm - which was "Perkins & Nephew" - Emporium - Robert and his wife attend the same Chapel that James does. John Kidley my 4<sup>th</sup> son

was also brought up in a Merchants office. He now fills the situation that Robert vacated. He is a pious young and his religious principles are those of the Society of Friends. My 6<sup>th</sup> son Joseph Benson <sup>was</sup> an amiable and talented boy and received the best education that could be obtained here, and before leaving school took the "Board of Education's" Degree of Associate of Arts. - By his wish he was entitled to an Architect and gave much promise of shining in the profession, but in a few years without any apparent cause wasted away, and died just after completing his 26<sup>th</sup> year. There was much in his death to take away the sting. - All my daughters, with the exception of the eldest who has always been my helper, have been educated for teachers; two of them are now engaged <sup>three of</sup> in the first class ladies schools in the Town in that capacity. The eldest has been so engaged for many years. My 3<sup>rd</sup> daughter

Margaret Bagg, the next in age to Joseph, died in the year 1841 at the age of 18<sup>th</sup>. He had evidence that all was peace. I am afraid those will think this letter very egotistical, as I do, but I wish thee to see thy Aunt's family as it really is. None have laid up of this world's wealth; but most have I hope treasure laid up "where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt". All were taught their duty to God and Man therefore if they fail the greater will be their condemnation in the day of account. - I thank thee much for the photograph of thy self & family. I was much pleased to get it and all have expressed pleasure upon seeing it. I should much like a carte-de-visite of thy self as well as one of all thy brothers & sisters. If thou canst procure them for me I will send over in exchange to any who will care to have whether Cousins or Cousins children. If thou hast one to spare of thy father or Mother or both, I sh<sup>d</sup> consider

it a great treasure. I have only Uncle Samuel  
and his wife and Aunt Sarah - I have none  
either of my father or Mother. I have a framed  
likeness of the former. I send thee a packet  
of phos. by the same Mail as this. Names are  
upon them. - There mentions a Memoir  
of thy dear wife, we should <sup>all</sup> be much interest-  
ed in perusing it - Our Cousin James Howard  
has mentioned her several times to me and  
from the way he spoke of her I judged her to  
be quite a superior woman. -