

My dear Sir - 3 May 1853

I thank you sincerely for your letter and invitation to visit you. Having been so long neglected, by almost every one, or only noticed whilst thought useful in political matters, both my wife and I, determined to have no more connexion with general society - Whilst my companion and constant friend lived, whose kind disposition made her frequently unsuspecting of slights, which I deeply felt, tho' I concealed my feelings from her - We cared for no other society than our own house afforded - Altho' I am not even now entirely desolate - (my children being most kind and attentive) I feel that no comfort is left for me in this world - But vexation never goes of ever yet made me relax in my determinations - nor will they do so in - I forgive, but despise those who ill treat me, and will not descend to express resentment, or to pretend cordiality - I therefore shall not again join in society - I fully expected it would have been ~~repealed~~ my lot instead of my dear wife - If it had pleased God to have taken both of us I should have thought it a great mercy - But I am still sick, and may soon follow her - Those I leave behind will probably remove our remains to some sacred ground - But I could not refrain from often going to look at my wife's grave - I could not bear to parade myself at Perth for that purpose - therefore I persuaded Mr Stuckhouse to bury her near my young children - By so doing he

convince me more than ever, that he is a true christian
for we differ in so many points, and I have argued
with him so freely, that three fourths of our present
clergy would have been glad to do me an injury,
instead of such a great kindness -

I am very sorry Mr. Charter is so unwell - He
should not overwork himself, not being compelled
by necessity - I beg you to thank Miss Leake
and your family for their kind remembrance,

M Leake Esq

I am my dear Sir
Yours truly
W Wood

Ms. A. 1. 1. 1.
1853
W. W. Wood