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 Sericho Mar 8. 1844

My dear Mr Leake

I am sorry with yr kind and
 welcome letter of the 1st March for which I
 thank you, it is more than kind so to
 express yrself when the visit to Rosedale was
 altogether a matter of convenience. - has I
 have found a convenient opportunity (a thing
 I have long desired) to pay you a visit I
 should not have written to you in the precise
 terms I did, but as I felt, so I wrote it was
 in truth a matter of convenience, as such
 I felt it needed an apology - but yr &
 Mrs Leakes kindness to Mrs Pike and my Dr
 has ~~prevented~~ put all obligations out of the
 question - I hope you may not suffer for
 yr frankness! - my curiosity has somewhat
 been raised to see Rosedale since Betty was
 there, but from Mr. Pikes acct - that desire
 is increased - how poor - and miserable
 all things appear at Park Farm after
 the scenery and Mansions of the Campbeltown

will "I will hide my diminished head" - and try
 to follow an apostolic injunction - "to be
 content with such things as I have" - but now
 to transcribe - I infer "you are in troubled waters"
 when you speak of blundering surveyors &
 will it afford you any relief - to say "its
 neighbours fare" - If you judge from what I read
 what I see daily - and what I experience - I feel
 that there is a certain portion of bitter which
 must be taken even by the most fervent of
 Christian people - & if I were entirely exempt
 from it I should begin to suspect something
 was wrong - you state, and properly too! that
 we each have our foes - true indeed - but
 wou'd to God they were the worst - have we
~~not~~ not my dear Mr. Hoake a foe within - a
 deceitful & adamantine heart - a heart
 that is prone to start aside from the living
 and true God - Oh if the question were put
 to me, and soon it will be put, Methinks I
 should plead guilty!!! - Yes verily guilty!!! - however
 it is a mercy that we are yet in the land of the
 living - that we are not left without hope - that we
 have a hope - "a hope that maketh not ashamed."

May you and you - be its happy participator's

I thank you for your enquiries after
 my dear little grandchildren - they arrived quite
 safe - Mrs Pike is now paying her annual visit
 to the parsonage at Sorell - the eight children is to
 be christened - what an old fellow I shall appear
 should I be spared to be call'd great Grandpapa
 what a family for so young a creature - Bless
 the Lord there is some provision! - If I were
 situated as you are I fancy I should be
 often out - cannot you come down and
 see us bring Mrs Leake - I think we can
 find a Bed that will hold you, ^{100/} if you
 will lie close! - come and try it -

what a merciful rain we
 have had - Oh for thankful hearts -

poor Hutton has met with a
 misfortune, a wild Bull of Kearneys - has
 gored him in the thigh - I hope not seriously

with you present - Mine and my Drs
 Emma & Betseys very best regards to Mrs Leake
 and yr Dr. and Sons - and believe me
 my dear Mrs Leake

Wm Leake Esq

Yrs very truly

Wm Leake

W. Pike

8 March 1841

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

Chru

To John Drake Esq. JP

London

Near Camp Hill

